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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 7, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Since justice and judgment are the foundation of Your throne, Lord God; because You love those who hate evil and guard the lives of Your faithful ones, Lord, we know that You welcome into the heavenly court Your servant, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

May his legacy continue to guide this Chamber, the provisions of the courts of this land and the citizens governed; to seek the truth behind every dispute and deferring opinion, to work for equal justice under the law for all Your people.

Eternal rest and reward grant unto him, O Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms.

SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SUPPORTING JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for President Bush's nominee for Chief Justice, Judge John Roberts, Jr. Judge Roberts has a distinguished record, a brilliant legal mind, and is uniquely qualified to replace the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Judge Roberts graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University in only 3 years. He then went on to graduate magna cum laude from Harvard Law School where he served as editor of the Law Review. Judge Roberts also clerked for our late Chief Justice Rehnquist.

Judge Roberts has argued 39 cases before the Supreme Court, earning him a reputation as one of the finest advocates in the Nation. Only a handful of the 180,000 members of the Supreme Court bar come close to this record.

Since 2003, he has served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. District. This court is regarded as the second most influential court in the Nation. Judge Roberts was confirmed unanimously for this important position by the United States Senate.

Judge Roberts is the kind of judge we need. He will apply the law as written and decide the case on its merits, regardless of his personal political views.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Judge Roberts offers all we could ask for in a Chief Justice nominee. Therefore, I

urge the Senate to hold fair and speedy hearings in order to fill this important vacancy as soon as possible.

KATRINA RESPONSE

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, there are three ways to respond to the crisis along the gulf coast: rebuilding, restoring, and retrospection. We must pinpoint the errors made prior to the storm and flooding, develop an action plan on what needs to be done to ensure that the response failures do not happen again, and focus on rebuilding people's lives.

Pointing fingers and attributing blame does little to put our country back together again. On the other hand, acting Pollyannish, as if everything went according to plan, would be dangerous. Failing to respond in a time of need is unacceptable.

Here are four things we must begin immediately to help folks put their lives back together: first, anyone affected by this tragedy should be exempted from the recently enacted bankruptcy laws. Second, we need to make sure the kids whose lives have been turned upside down receive universal health care and an education. Those seeking a higher education will receive a \$3,000 voucher. Third, we need to start reconstruction from housing to highways. New Orleans and the rest of the gulf coast must come back better and safer than before. Fourth, we need to immediately begin to restore the region's natural buffer zones.

Mr. Speaker, in a crisis people look to their fellow countrymen, and they are looking to this country. It is time to start the rebuilding, the restoring, and the retrospection.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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“GIT’R DONE”

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank Texans that are helping our neighbors from across the Sabine River in Louisiana. The amazing hurricane relief efforts being organized in the State of Texas are a model for compassion, concern, and competence. The city of Houston, following the leadership of Mayor Bill White, is housing over 40,000 individuals from New Orleans. The Houston Astrodome has been opened up under the supervision of Harris County Judge Robert Echols and is housing close to 20,000 people. Next door in Jefferson County under the direction of Judge Carl Griffith, they are housing more than 1,800 people in their county complex. Altogether close to a quarter of a million displaced persons from Louisiana are being taken care of by Texas.

Mr. Speaker, there are those who have done nothing in this disaster except criticize and complain. I instead rise to praise and encourage. I would like to thank Mayor White, Judge Echols, Judge Griffith, and the thousands of volunteers across the State of Texas for showing us what character and compassion are all about. I know they will continue to “git’r done.”

DEALING WITH NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE FUTURE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as we all reel from the devastation of Katrina, what is surprising is that so many claim to have been surprised by an event both predictable and inevitable.

This is the moment when the Nation’s attention is trained upon not just this tragedy but what we must do to prevent future unnecessary suffering and loss. Today with a majority of Americans at risk from natural disasters, this is more important than ever for us to get the job done right.

Four years ago, we got it wrong as FEMA lost its focus in the vast Homeland Security bureaucracy. We need to listen to each other this time and to the consensus of independent experts. We need to deal with the long term and to find an appropriate Federal role. We need to use the forces of nature to protect against the power of nature. We must assure that each step along the way that we take as a Congress leaves our communities more liveable and our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM REHNQUIST

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers are with the Rehnquist family and our Nation. As we celebrate the life of Chief Justice William Rehnquist today, we mourn the loss of a true leader who made the most of his unique opportunity to help the American people. He was a skilled judge and a brilliant man who devoted over a third of his life to ensuring that our highest Court fairly upheld our laws.

From fighting excessive Federal laws as an Associate Justice to battling cancer as Chief Justice, Rehnquist embodied determination and conviction throughout his tenure. Often the lone vote on an issue, he remained true to his conservative beliefs and worked tirelessly to ensure that justice was fairly delivered, and efficiently. Because of his monumental impact on our legal system, he earned a valuable place in our Nation’s history.

As his family and friends gather today, I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude for the life and work of Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HURRICANE KATRINA AND THE IMPACT ON LATINOS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, last week the world witnessed the devastating impact of one of the greatest calamities the United States has ever faced. Hurricane Katrina left hundreds of thousands of people without their livelihood and homes and many more without a sense of hope and esperanza.

As shelters across the United States open their arms to evacuees, we must remember all the vulnerable communities which are suffering tremendously in the wake of this natural disaster, including the immigrant population that resides in the embattled areas of the Nation.

More than 150,000 Hondurans, 100,000 Mexicans, and a host of other individuals who live in that particular area, these are immigrants and their families who have contributed significantly to the social and economic fabric of the gulf coast, working in casinos, on farms, in hotels, construction sites, and also in janitorial services. I feel strongly that these immigrants and their families cannot be forgotten in this crisis.

Just as we embrace all the victims of disaster, I hope and I know that the Federal Government will do the same without regard to race, ethnicity, and country of origin. Let us not forget that these individuals contribute every single day to our Nation.

EDWARD M. REUTINGER

(Mr. NEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a great American, Edward M. Reutinger. Edward Reutinger passed away on August 25, 2005, from a stroke at the age of 58. He was a Green Township trustee in Ross County, Ohio, for 12 years and planned on renewing his public service to Ohio this November by running for trustee again.

Edward Reutinger was a devoted family man and a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and uncle. He and his wife were set to celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary this year.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Reutinger represents some of the best that Ohio and America have to offer. I want to remember him for his upstanding citizenship and for the love he had for his township and his country. May God rest his soul.

HURRICANE KATRINA AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have been through some of the worst hurricanes in the last quarter of a century. They were experiences I never want to go through again, but none comes close to the devastation especially in the lives of the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. I would have thought that there would have been some institutional history and expertise at FEMA that would have dictated a more appropriate preparation and immediate lifesaving response. Obviously, I was wrong and lives were lost.

What I have not been wrong about is what my CBC colleagues and I have been telling this body over and over again for a long time, that African Americans are left out and left behind in just about every facet of American life. Now the entire country and the whole world has seen it in its most stark and tragic reality.

If nothing else comes out of the devastation we have witnessed over the past week, it should be that we forge the will and determination and the leadership of this Nation to close the gaps; to eliminate the disparities; and, finally, after all of these centuries, ensure fairness, equality, and justice for all and that all Americans be finally embraced into the fullness of the promise that is America.

THE BEST OF HUMAN NATURE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, over the Labor Day weekend, I had the opportunity to go to Baton Rouge not as a Member of Congress but as a physician and to work in the River Center where the evacuees, over 5,000, so many of them were there, and to help provide basic health care needs.

What I saw in Louisiana was the best of human nature: a level of confusion, of course, and some disorganization, but people pulling together and trying to do the best they could in a difficult situation.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle at a time like this, probably the greatest tragedy this Nation has ever seen, to pull together, avoid the temptation to get into a finger-pointing, blaming situation, and let us see as a result of this the best of the human nature of this Congress.

FEMA

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman who went before me: we should see the best of human nature and we should all join together, and hopefully Congress and the administration can do better in the relief and the rebuilding efforts than they did in the prevention and disaster response.

But it is a time to learn and reform because it may only be days or weeks until we have another devastating hurricane, who knows when the terrorists will attack, and have we learned any lessons since 9/11.

A gentleman before me said we will never forget. We have forgotten. There were no interoperable secure communications. They want to blame New Orleans for that. Guess what, the Bush administration zeroed out interoperable communications in the Homeland Security budget. The Bush administration insisted that FEMA had to go into Homeland Security. I joined with 163 Members of this House saying no, that will degrade FEMA. FEMA has been degraded. They have a political hack as their head.

Changes need to be made now, and urgently, because the next disaster may strike tomorrow. And if the response is as poor as it was in this emergency, more people will die needlessly.

PULLING TOGETHER

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we all watched in disbelief as the desperation of fellow Americans rolled across our TV screens waving from rooftops in New Orleans, waiting to be saved. And as the hours rolled by, it became clear that our response, our response, at the local, State, and Federal levels was lacking.

□ 1015

Hurricane Katrina is the largest natural disaster in the history of our Nation, affecting an area the size of the entire State of Michigan. Any response would have been lacking for some. There will be opportunities in Congress and elsewhere to evaluate that re-

sponse, but now is the time for all Americans to pull together and work together to get millions of our fellow citizens back on their feet. Now is the time for the American spirit to shine.

We are a giving and a generous country, and millions of Americans are desperate to help. There are so many avenues of opportunity.

Our Nation has faced huge challenges before, and we know how to succeed in the face of adversity. We succeed by marshaling that American spirit and by working together. Together, it is imperative that now we in Congress and across our Nation move forward with that uniquely American can-do, never-fail attitude.

HELP THE REAL VICTIMS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, our prayers are with the families who are still displaced, those who have lost loved ones, and those who have yet to locate friends and family.

Last week we offered a \$10.5 billion down payment on a long-term rebuilding effort, and I hope this initial commitment will send a clear message to the victims that the American people stand ready to help during their time of need.

But I am concerned about politics. I have been around long enough to recognize opportunism when I see it. Some Democrats are already using this opportunity to impugn the integrity of the President with blame and finger-pointing. Though it is appropriate to determine what went wrong, I am afraid that they may have another agenda.

Now is the time for all of us to work together to help those in need. Lest we forget who they are, here is a hint: They do not work here in the Capitol, they do not run for political office, they live in refugee camps in a dozen States because their homes and lives were destroyed by Katrina.

BEING RESPONSIBLE WITH OUR NATION'S RESOURCES

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, we have already made a down payment of \$10.5 billion. We will do another \$50 billion likely later this week, as we should.

I want to encourage my colleagues in our leadership to seek out offsets. When a family has an emergency, they will sometimes put it on a credit card or plan for it some other way. Our credit is just about at its limit, and we have to dig deep within ourselves and say, how are we going to pay for this? What else are we going to cut?

I have many suggestions. A prescription drug benefit that will go into ef-

fect next year has about a \$40 billion price tag for 1 year. That will be a great place to start. We just passed a massive transportation bill that we ought to have revisions on. There are many ways that we can look for the money, but we have to find the money somewhere, and we should not simply assume that we can spend new money and that everything will go along just fine.

We have to be responsible with the Nation's resources.

PULLING TOGETHER AS A NATION

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing the entire coast of Georgia from Savannah to Brunswick to St. Mary's, Georgia, and during my 14 years in Congress, we have had a number of tropical depressions and hurricanes, and we have had to evacuate and so forth. And we have been hit, but certainly not to the degree that the gulf has been.

Yet, one thing I know from that experience is that you do not sit around and point fingers. You get folks their basic needs after a storm. You get them water, you get them food, you get them shelter, you get them electricity, you get them medical attention, you get them transportation. These things are what we need to be doing right now.

Sure, we can sit around in Louisiana and say, why was the National Guard not ordered, and who is in charge of that? Why were the 4,000 buses in New Orleans not activated? Who is in charge of that? We could say, why was the evacuation of New Orleans only made on Sunday, the day beforehand? We can sit around and do that, but that is not going to help people who rightfully need medical attention, food, and water.

This is the time to pull together as a Nation, as different people from all over the States with different perspectives and different social statuses and different income brackets, to unify into one and help those on the ground who need our help the most.

The United States Congress is doing that. We passed the emergency bill for disaster relief last Friday and we will do it again this week. We are going to continue to pull together to get this recovery going as fast and as orderly as possible.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 423, HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, CAREER, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM HUBBS REHNQUIST UPON HIS DEATH

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it

shall be in order at any time to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 423); the resolution shall be considered as read; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 423.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, CAREER, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM HUBBS REHNQUIST UPON HIS DEATH

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House entered into previously today, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 423) honoring and recognizing the distinguished service, career, and achievements of Chief Justice William Hubbs Rehnquist upon his death, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of House Resolution 423 is as follows:

H. RES. 423

Whereas William H. Rehnquist was born on October 1, 1924, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and grew up the son of a paper salesman;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist served the United States in the Army Air Corps during World War II;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist attended and graduated from Stanford University, earning a bachelor's and master's degree in political science, and a second master's degree in government from Harvard University;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist went on to graduate first in his class at Stanford Law School in 1952, where he met his wife Natalie "Nan" Cornell;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist and Natalie had three children: James, Janet, and Nancy;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist served as a law clerk to Justice Robert H. Jackson on the Supreme Court during the 1951 and 1952 terms, and as Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, where he advised the Nixon Administration on constitutional law from 1969 until 1971;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist was appointed by President Nixon and confirmed by

the Senate as an Associate Justice of the United States on December 10, 1971, at the age of 47;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist was appointed by President Reagan and confirmed by the Senate as the 16th Chief Justice of the United States in 1986;

Whereas Chief Justice Rehnquist's 33-year tenure on the Supreme Court was one of the longest and most influential in the Nation's history;

Whereas legal scholars of all perspectives rank Chief Justice Rehnquist as among the great Chief Justices of the United States who influenced the interpretation of the law in significant ways;

Whereas Chief Justice Rehnquist was widely respected for his evenhandedness as Chief Justice; and

Whereas on January 7, 2002, the 30th Anniversary of his swearing in at the Supreme Court, Justice John Paul Stevens praised Chief Justice Rehnquist for "the efficiency, good humor and absolute impartiality that you have consistently displayed when presiding at our Conferences": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of Chief Justice Rehnquist; and

(2) honors, recognizes, and expresses gratitude for the distinguished service, career, and achievements of William H. Rehnquist upon his death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 423 which honors and recognizes the distinguished service, career, and achievements of Chief Justice William Hubbs Rehnquist upon his death.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Chief Justice Rehnquist means that a long and distinguished career has come to an end. William Rehnquist was born on October 1, 1924, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and was raised in nearby Shorewood, Wisconsin, which currently lies in the congressional district I am proud to represent. The future Chief Justice attended Kenyon College briefly before joining the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

Following his career in the Army, Chief Justice Rehnquist attended and graduated from Stanford University, where he received a bachelor's and master's degree in political science and a second master's degree in government from Harvard University.

At Stanford Law School, the future Chief Justice graduated first in the class that famously included his future colleague, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. It was also at Stanford Law School that the Chief Justice met his future wife, Natalie "Nan" Cornell, whom he married in 1953.

After graduation, William Rehnquist clerked for Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson for the 1952 and 1953

terms. He then went on to practice as an attorney in his adopted home State of Arizona for several years before returning to Washington, DC, to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, where he advised the Nixon administration on constitutional law from 1969 until 1971.

On October 22, 1971, President Nixon nominated William Rehnquist to fill the vacancy on the United States Supreme Court created by Justice John Marshall Harlan's retirement. The Senate confirmed him to the post of Associate Justice on December 10, 1971, and he was sworn into office on January 7, 1972, at the age of 47.

Under his leadership, federalism, judicial restraint, and State autonomy once again became staple features of the Court's jurisprudence. Chief Justice Rehnquist deeply respected the proper roles of each branch of government and the separation of powers envisioned by our Founders. He repeatedly acknowledged that the first amendment to the Constitution guaranteed the free exercise of religion.

By the time President Reagan nominated him to become the 16th Chief Justice of the United States on June 20, 1986, to replace Warren Burger, the pieces were in place for the Chief Justice to make a profound impact on American jurisprudence. His commitment to his principles were evidenced in his majority opinion upholding Cleveland, Ohio's program of school vouchers, which allowed public school students in poor areas to use vouchers to attend better, and often religious, schools, against an Establishment Clause challenge. His support for freedom of religion was also evidenced in his concurring opinion of *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, in which he rightly concluded that the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance was not a violation of the Establishment Clause.

Most recently, Chief Justice Rehnquist joined Justice O'Connor's dissent in *Kelo v. City of New London* in which they correctly concluded that it is a violation of the fifth amendment's Public Use Clause when a government takes private property and gives it to another private entity to use for private commercial purposes.

Apart from the doctrinal changes the Chief Justice brought to the Court, he also streamlined the manner in which the Court operated. His keen intellect and evenhandedness were appreciated by all of his colleagues. On the 30th anniversary of Rehnquist's swearing in, Justice John Paul Stevens, who often found himself on the opposite side of opinions from the Chief Justice, praised him for the "efficiency, good humor, and absolute impartiality that you have consistently displayed when presiding at our conferences." These traits have led observers of all political persuasions to view Chief Justice Rehnquist as one of the most consequential jurists in our history.

When Chief Justice Rehnquist was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in October of 2004, many of his admirers feared that his tenure on the Court would come to an end. The Chief Justice, however, had other plans and continued to make his presence felt on the Court even as he battled his disease. Unfortunately, last Saturday, Chief Justice Rehnquist lost that battle, and the country has lost a great intellect and a great public servant. His decision to swear in President George W. Bush last January while battling his illness inspired millions of Americans.

From a personal standpoint, let me say that I first met the future Chief Justice back in 1968 going door-to-door while running for a seat in the Wisconsin Assembly, and when I knocked on his parents' door, they introduced me to the Chief Justice-to-be, and he and I have kept contact up for a number of years until he passed away, both before he was selected for the Court and I was elected to the Congress.

As the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, let me say that I deeply appreciated the Chief Justice's invitations to address the twice-yearly meetings of the Judicial Conference of the United States on issues relating to the separation of powers and the interrelationship to how the laws the Congress passes relate to the operation of the third branch of government. I can say that the Chief Justice was extremely responsive when I had complained that the Judicial Discipline statute enacted in 1980 was not being utilized properly and effectively in terms of disciplining judges in the appeals court and in the lower Federal courts that may have strayed from the bounds of propriety and the ethical standards that we hope all of the judges will uphold.

I can say that probably one of my most profound memories of the Chief Justice was at a Judicial Conference meeting on the morning of September 11, 2001, where, because I had the first three bills up on the floor at 10 o'clock, the Chief Justice put me on first. At that time the Twin Towers had both been hit, and the Chief Justice came in, sat down and said, "Jim, make this snappy. Something bad is going on."

□ 1030

So my remarks got condensed to a minute and a half and the Chief Justice said, "There are no questions of the chairman, are there?" And everybody else in the room got the message, so I was then excused, and when I got here to the Capitol to make the three motions for suspensions of the rules, the Pentagon had already been hit. So the Chief Justice, I think, was advised that we were all in danger, he wanted to get the business done despite the danger, and he was able to do that. I think that this shows his character, and it is a way that touched me in an extremely personal way.

While the country has lost so much, his family, including his children

James, Nancy, and Janet, and his six grandchildren have lost a loving family member as well. I know that the whole House will join me in extending our condolences to his family and our thanks for his great service to this country. I hope that all Members will join me in supporting House Resolution 423 honoring, recognizing, and expressing our gratitude for the distinguished service, career, and achievements of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Chief Justice Rehnquist. Justice Rehnquist was devoted to the highest Court of the land and, more broadly, to our system of justice; and throughout his long tenure, he served them both admirably. During his 33 years on the Court, 19 of which were as Chief Justice, he chartered a definitive path which reflected his philosophy and left an unquestionable impact on the direction of the Court.

In his early years on the Court, at a time when his approach to constitutional interpretation often was not shared by a majority on the Court, Justice Rehnquist stuck closely to his principles, earning him the moniker "The Lone Ranger." Over time, he was joined by other Justices who shared his ideology, and he was able to craft majorities that moved the Court towards adopting his vision of the law. To his great credit, when faced with a conflict between his own strongly held position and the dictates of *stare decisis*, as happened with recent efforts to limit the *Miranda* decision, he frequently sided with precedent.

While it is fair to say that over the years on decisions which have split the Court, I have probably disagreed with Chief Justice Rehnquist's opinions more often than I have agreed with them; however, I have admired many of his efforts to protect the independence of the judiciary and his willingness to criticize his own party.

Chief Justice Rehnquist often stated his discomfort with Congress encroaching on a court's prerogative in an attempt to guard judicial independence. He lashed out at those attempting to impeach judicial activists and threaten judges for rulings they did not like. "The Constitution protects judicial independence not to benefit judges but to promote the rule of law. Judges are expected to administer the law fairly, without regard to public reaction," he once said.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist also criticized Congress for repeatedly enacting Federal criminal laws that overlap State laws. The States have the primary role in the area of crime and law enforcement, he said in his annual message on the judiciary, and Congress needs to think twice before turning "every highly publicized societal ill or sensational crime" into a new Federal law. "The trend to fed-

eralize crimes that traditionally have been handled in State courts not only is taxing the judiciary's resources," he said, "but it also threatens to change entirely the nature of the Federal system. Federal courts were not created to adjudicate local crimes, no matter how sensational or heinous the crimes may be. State courts do, can, and should handle such problems."

The impact of Congress having relegated more complex and time-consuming cases appropriate for State court adjudication to Federal jurisdiction, such as Congress did with class action reform, warranted Rehnquist's rebuke: "Congress should commit itself to conserving the Federal courts as a distinctive judicial forum of limited jurisdiction in our system of federalism. Civil and criminal jurisdiction should be assigned to the Federal courts only to further clearly define national interests, leaving to the State courts the responsibility for adjudicating all other matters. This long-range plan for Federal courts is based not simply on the preferences of Federal judges but on the traditional principle of federalism that has guided this country throughout its existence."

As noted by the New York Times, Chief Justice Rehnquist was also duly critical of hastily enacted limitations on judicial sentencing decisions and the potential damage that compiling information on the sentencing habits of individual judges could do to fair and impartial justice. Chief Justice Rehnquist plainly saw his role as defender in chief of the Nation's independent court system, which he famously called "one of the crown jewels of our system of government."

His often practical approach to immeasurably weighty responsibility of having one out of nine votes on the most powerful Court in the country reflected his devotion and respect for the institution of the Supreme Court and its effect on the lives of all Americans. Nowhere did Justice Rehnquist's love for the Court shine through more than in his numerous books on Supreme Court history and lore.

Chief Justice Rehnquist also displayed considerable skill in managing an often divided Court. His colleagues have spoken of his deft ability, good humor, and impartiality as he led the Court through landmark cases. On top of this, he served for nearly 2 decades as the chief judicial officer of the Nation's Federal court system, constantly advocating for the resources needed to improve the courts' mission of delivering evenhanded justice throughout the Nation.

I would commend to my colleagues the op-ed piece in the New York Times yesterday by Laurence Tribe, a frequent litigator in the Supreme Court who argued many, many cases, who speaks of Chief Justice Rehnquist's career there and finds many, many reasons to praise and admire him. He closes his article urging that as the Senate now considers the confirmation

of a new Chief Justice, they look to one of the issues that he felt Chief Justice Rehnquist so ably stood for and that is the ability of new Justices to help the Court earn the respect of all who take part in its proceedings or are affected by its rulings, which means everyone. "Chief Justice Rehnquist," Professor Tribe noted, "was a master at that mission. For that, and for the steadiness of his leadership, I will always remember him with profound gratitude and admiration."

We are all saddened by the loss of Chief Justice William Rehnquist. As we mourn his death, regardless of our political differences, we must remember how he selflessly gave to the Court and the Nation. His work is an important legacy that impacts every American's life and will shape the lives of future generations. I join the Nation in applauding his accomplishments, and I express my sympathy for our collective loss.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, not unlike the gentleman from Wisconsin, I also appeared at the Supreme Court on 9/11 to address the judicial conference. Just as I approached the podium, the Chief Justice handed me a note which read: "The Pentagon has been bombed." I thought perhaps they did not know about the World Trade Center because they had been in session the entire morning, and I said, "No, Chief, it's the World Trade Center." He said, "No, Howard, it's the Pentagon here." My staff, Mr. Speaker, admonishes me to this day for not having retained that piece of paper. It would have been a nice personal memento. Each time I saw the Chief after that, he or I mentioned that exchange between us.

Not unlike the gentleman from Wisconsin, I did not know the Chief that intimately, but I am very high on him. I think he was an outstanding Chief Justice. Each time I saw him, he or I mentioned that exchange between us on 9/11.

If I could describe him very briefly, I would say a man blessed with supreme intellect; a warm, cordial demeanor; an outstanding Chief Justice; an outstanding jurist; an outstanding citizen; an outstanding gentleman. He will indeed be missed. I join with my colleagues in extending our sincere condolences to the family of this great man.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, I want to take this opportunity to honor the late Supreme Court Justice William Hubbs Rehnquist. Our country was privileged to have Justice Rehnquist serve as a member of our Supreme Court for 33

years, the last 18 years, as we know, as Chief Justice. Once considered the maverick lone star justice for his solo dissents, he eventually led a majority which perhaps most importantly favored a shift in power from Washington back to the States where it belongs.

Among other challenges he met during his tenure, Chief Justice Rehnquist presided over the impeachment trial of a President, President Clinton. Having served as one of the House managers myself, I can say that he did so with an evenhanded approach, showing fairness and dignity to both sides. Also, notably, he was the last member of the Court who voted on the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade*, dissenting from that ruling that legalized abortion. I will always appreciate his respect for the value of human life and his commitment to this body and local government's making decisions to protect life, such as the ban on partial-birth abortion.

Through his opinions, the Chief Justice showed that an active Court could uphold conservative policy through judicial restraint. As we begin the process of finding a replacement for Justice Rehnquist, I hope that we will remember the important impact of his presence on the Court and his commitment to upholding the text and history of the Constitution.

His strength and dedication to our country could be seen most recently when he fulfilled his duties of swearing in our 43rd President for the second time while battling terminal thyroid cancer. Let us remember this, I believe, historic Chief Justice for his love of the law and his love for his country. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family on this day.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, Chief Justice Rehnquist was a man of great intellect on a Court that is saturated with great intellect. He was also a man of vast common sense. Unfortunately, common sense was not so well and evenly distributed on the Court. Nonetheless, as a gentle man, a man of class, a man of integrity, he brought great wisdom and great honor to the Court. As a former prosecutor, a former district judge, a former chief justice of an appellate court in Texas, I watched his actions, I read his opinions and appreciated his great intellectual honesty and appreciation for the Constitution. He was a rare man, a man that brought great honor upon the Court, upon this country, and upon the Constitution. He will be sorely missed. It is with great respect that we extend our sympathy and our sincere best wishes and our prayers to the family and those closest to the Chief Justice. We all mourn the loss of a very great American.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I join all of my colleagues in expressing our deepest condolences to the family of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. I mourn his loss, and I thank the

gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. CONYERS, for introducing this resolution.

I had the privilege yesterday of paying my respects to the Chief Justice as he lay in repose at the Great Hall. As I prayed, I thought of the great courage he displayed in the last few months, and his devotion to duty, even in the face of illness.

As a Nation, today we honor his memory and a lifetime of dedicated public service. Chief Justice Rehnquist was a man of great intellect and passion for the Supreme Court and its traditions, who was an outstanding leader and administrator of the judiciary. He was not only a student of history, an author of books on American history, but he also wrote chapters in our Nation's history as Chief Justice.

As a law clerk to a great Justice, Robert Jackson, he formed an early appreciation for the institution that he would serve in a long and distinguished career. As Justice John Paul Stevens noted, Chief Justice Rehnquist set an exemplary example as leader of the Court. His colleagues uniformly spoke of his fair and impartial leadership of their proceedings, and of his efforts to prevent disagreements from becoming personal.

His legacy is his steadfast and proud defense of an independent judiciary. As Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said on Sunday: "He regarded an independent judiciary as our country's hallmark and pride, and in his annual reports, he constantly urged Congress to safeguard that independence."

I hope all of us in Congress will honor his legacy by preserving an independent judiciary. It is our oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States—and that means protecting an independent judiciary free of manipulation and intimidation.

As the New York Times noted this morning, Chief Justice Rehnquist disapproved of recent Congressional attempts to "intimidate individual judges, strip federal courts of jurisdiction to decide certain constitutional challenges, and otherwise undermine the constitutional separation of powers and checks and balances." In his last annual report, the Chief Justice wrote that "A judge's judicial acts may not serve as a basis for impeachment. Any other rule would destroy judicial independence."

An independent judiciary has served for more than two centuries as the guardian of our constitutional liberties and as the words on the Supreme Court building so nobly state, has ensured "equal justice under law." We must preserve an independent judiciary and honor his memory by doing so.

It is with sadness and respect that I extend my sympathies to Chief Justice Rehnquist's family and friends. I hope it is a comfort that so many people are praying for them at this sad time. He will long be remembered and missed.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most influential jurists of the 20th Century, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, the 16th Chief Justice of the United States upon his passing on the evening of Saturday, September 3, 2005.

First appointed to the Supreme Court as an Associate Justice by President Richard Nixon in 1972, Rehnquist would go on to serve for 33 years, the final 19 of which as Chief Justice. During his time on the Court, Rehnquist

earned the reputation as a conservative intellectual who would challenge the status quo in the name of judicial restraint and federalism principles. He respected the Court's role as an independent body whose role was not to legislate subjectively on the issues of the day; but rather, to serve as the objective arbiter of the rule of law.

Notwithstanding the politically charged nature of the Court during the latter half of the 20th Century, Rehnquist was very well liked and respected by all his colleagues, even those with whom he frequently disagreed. In fact, Justice John Paul Stevens, the Justice with whom Rehnquist most frequently disagreed, commented on "the efficiency, good humor and absolute impartiality that [Rehnquist had] consistently displayed when presiding at [Supreme Court] Conferences." This ability to work closely with all of his colleagues was a testament to Chief Justice Rehnquist's affability, professionalism and evenhandedness.

Not only will Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist be missed as a jurist, he will also be missed as a loving family man. Though his wife preceded him in death, he is survived by three wonderful children to whom he no doubt passed his strong work ethic, patriotism, and deep and abiding respect for our American institutions.

In closing Mr. Speaker, please let me extend my condolences to Chief Justice Rehnquist's family and friends on their loss. He was a great American and will be missed by us all.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1045

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF NATION TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 425); the resolution shall be considered as read; the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today,

I call up the resolution (H. Res. 425) expressing the condolences of the Nation to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, commending the resiliency of the people of the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and committing to stand by them in the relief and recovery efforts, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of H. Res. 425 is as follows:
H. RES 425

Whereas, on August 28, 2005, Hurricane Katrina reached landfall devastating the Gulf Coast states;

Whereas there has yet to be a full accounting for all our citizens whose lives were tragically lost;

Whereas the cost in human suffering is ongoing for hundreds of thousands of people who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods;

Whereas immediate humanitarian aid is still critically needed in many of the devastated regions;

Whereas the devastation on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama is catastrophic;

Whereas the City of New Orleans is tragically flooded and the surrounding communities of St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes are devastated;

Whereas every city on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is severely damaged or destroyed, including Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, Moss Point, and Pascagoula;

Whereas the States of Florida, Texas, and Georgia also sustained damage;

Whereas Coast Guard search and rescue teams, police, firefighters, the National Guard, and many ordinary citizens have risked their lives to save others;

Whereas doctors, nurses, and medical personnel worked expeditiously to ensure that hospitals, medical centers, and triage units provided needed care;

Whereas the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and other volunteer organizations and charities are supplying hurricane victims with food, water, and shelter;

Whereas the State of Texas and numerous other States have welcomed tens of thousands of victims from Louisiana and provided them with aid and comfort;

Whereas the Army Corps of Engineers has worked to reinforce levees in Louisiana; and

Whereas thousands of volunteers and government employees from across the Nation have committed time and resources to help with recovery efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses the condolences of the Nation to the victims of Hurricane Katrina;

(2) commends the resiliency and courage of the people of the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; and

(3) commits to provide the necessary resources and to stand by the people of the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama in the relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 425.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives expresses the condolences of the Nation to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and this resolution expresses those condolences. It commends the resiliency and courage of the people of the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama, and it commits to provide the necessary resources and to stand by the people of the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama in the relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate approved a similar resolution last night, and bipartisan support for recognizing the work of first responders and to express congressional concern for those displaced by the hurricane and those who died is in order. My district, the Seventh Congressional District of Louisiana, did not suffer significant damage from Hurricane Katrina, but we face enormous challenges of sheltering and supporting the numerous evacuees now in my district. The rest of our State down in the New Orleans area and south, in Plaquemines Parish and St. Bernard Parish were devastated.

Mr. Speaker, we are up to the challenge. In my district, in Lake Charles, there are an estimated 25,000 evacuees, and in Lafayette, my hometown, there are an estimated 40,000 evacuees. Official tallies are much lower because many had family or friends to stay with or had funds to pay for hotel rooms, but this is going to be temporary. Almost all available housing has been rented or bought. Schools are preparing to accept thousands of new students. In fact, we are already currently enrolling many of these students.

State and local officials are concerned about being able to support evacuees for the long months of recovery. Local community organizations are stepping up to help, but have limited resources. The evacuation process continues. Much media attention has been on New Orleans, but there are other areas of Louisiana that remain under 10 feet of water or more. A number of communities in the Third District of Louisiana, represented by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON), have been completely destroyed. Entire towns in Mississippi have been destroyed. There are residents of these communities still waiting for aid, food, water, and health supplies.

The recovery process will be long and expensive. The Federal Government must continue to step in and bring its resources to bear in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, the visual images have been heartbreaking, and I have seen

the damage with my own eyes. I have spoken to the many victims who have been affected, and the human stories are unfathomable to hear. And, like many, I am frustrated with the delay and the bureaucracy that has interfered with getting relief and supplies to our evacuees. But this is not the time to point fingers; this is not the time for blame.

There is an enormous amount of work that still needs to be done and done in a bipartisan manner. Accountability will come, and I know Congress will look into the disaster.

I urge my colleagues to rise above the vicious rhetoric that does not provide the thousands of children in my district with school supplies or uniforms, or does not provide displaced small businesses with the help to get back on their feet, or does not provide opportunities for families to reunite or housing for seniors with care or comfort.

Mr. Speaker, this is going to take time. It is going to take a monumental effort. We must pull together to accomplish all of this.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) in coming forward with this bipartisan resolution.

I am going to offer some formal remarks, and then I am going to say a word further about the irony of my managing this bill this morning.

Mr. Speaker, 10 days ago Hurricane Katrina slammed into America's gulf coast. The aftermath of the hurricane has prompted one of the largest response mobilizations in United States history. At the very core of all the relief effort is the overwhelming concern we all have for our fellow Americans, ordinary citizens who have become victims of this vast, unprecedented devastation.

Thousands of local State and Federal workers and volunteers are engaged in life-saving activities. Life-sustaining activities, supported by virtually all national charities, are spreading across all parts of the United States. Sheltering and housing initiatives so vital to the well-being of the victims have been activated all across the country. These efforts are aimed at providing some measure of efforts and relief to the tens of thousands of displaced Americans, many who survived with merely the clothes on their backs.

It is with a heavy heart, but with a deep sense of hope for a better future that I join all of my colleagues today in expressing my deep sense of sorrow and the condolences of the Nation to all the victims of Hurricane Katrina. I commend the resilience of all who have survived and all who are helping them to survive and am awed by their enduring vision for a better future.

For the present, I will work to fulfill our Nation's commitment to each vic-

tim that all the necessary resources and the might of the country will be used to relieve their suffering and to provide the resources they need for the brighter future characteristic of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I say the irony is, I was at an opening of an employment and training center for SOME, So Others Might Eat, and commenting there on the irony of the opening of that employment and training center at a time when just yesterday I had gone to Dulles Airport to retrieve 300 evacuees from a plane, who now reside in the Armory just a few blocks from here. And I said the symbolism of this center opening now is not lost on me, and the first moment I have to tell my colleagues about the symmetry between the opening of this center and the evacuees here, I am going to do it. Then I got a phone call saying we need someone to manage the bill expressing our condolences as a Nation and our resolve for the victims on the gulf coast.

Mr. Speaker, as I left this center, this new center where I had indicated that here in D.C. is doing very well, but certainly the poorest part of the region, surrounded by very rich counties, I was proud of my city because we had seen the need and said, Come here even though there are many unemployed here.

The man who runs this new SOME center said, We are quickly filling the 60 slots; we have 20 slots left. I am on the other side of the Anacostia in Ward 7, and Wards 7 and 8 are the high unemployment wards. So if there are only 60 slots, there are 60 times 60 people in Ward 7 alone that need it. And so he said, I think we ought to give the slots to the people who got off the plane yesterday. And I said, What a wonderful contribution that would be. We all have to find a contribution to make, and for you to contribute 20 of 60 slots from the highest unemployment pool in the city is to make the kind of sacrifice our country needs to be prepared to make now. And that is the kind of sacrifice we are seeing all over the country.

I want to say that in this House we have got to ask ourselves, what sacrifice are we prepared to make? We have assumed the best of all possible worlds, but what we cannot control is always possible and what we cannot control has happened.

I hope that in the coming weeks, as we finish the session, we will remember that it is time for us to make sacrifices. Already the Senate appears to say it is not going to bring forward the permanent repeal of the estate tax. If it took a tragedy to do it, then it has been done. The mega-rich will not get richer this time around. I just think in the spirit of trying to figure out how we can go home and say this is something we did that we would not otherwise have done but for Katrina is what we need to say.

Of course, we will go home and talk about the \$20 billion and now the \$40

billion. That, of course, is mandatory. That is what we are here for. The real issue for me is, what is it that we wanted to do, talking to both sides of the aisle, that we now forswear, that we now say, in the name of the greatest natural tragedy in memory, we decide that we will not do that that we most wanted to do.

Some of us wanted to do spending on some things. Some of us may want to do a little more tax cutting, but it is time for us to become introspective about being visited with the most massive natural tragedy of our time.

My heart is with the people of Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and the entire gulf coast. That is true of America generally. But as people take in people in their own homes, as people send money, we have to ask ourselves, what will we do, what will we say is the sacrifice we as Members of Congress have made as a body when we go home next week?

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), who is the distinguished subcommittee chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Louisiana for yielding this time.

I join my colleagues today to convey to the people of the gulf coast a very simple message: you are not alone.

Time and again, this Nation has banded together to overcome terrible challenges it has faced, and we will do so again to overcome the challenge that is Hurricane Katrina. I, like most all of my colleagues, have been inundated with phone calls from constituents offering their support and assistance to those in need during this terrible time; and at present, we are working through the gentleman from Louisiana's (Mr. BOUSTANY) office to get those resources from Pennsylvania down to Louisiana and the gulf coast.

The people of the gulf coast need to know also that we in Congress will do whatever it takes to help them overcome this difficult time; and more importantly, we will be there in the long run to help them recover.

Recovery from this disaster will require not just the pumping of flood water and rebuilding of homes and businesses, the reconstruction of utilities, water and sewer, roads, levees and countless other activities. Recovery will also require the restoration of civic, educational, and social institutions. We will be with you during this process as well.

We will spend whatever it takes, implement any changes that are needed, and maintain rigorous oversight to ensure the process works well.

As the chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over FEMA, I wanted to also urge my colleagues to show restraint in making judgments about the response until all of the facts can be gathered. All of the facts need to be gathered, not just what we hear as the sound bite on the TV today.

This disaster is quite simply the largest humanitarian challenge the Nation has faced on its own shores. The hurricane devastated hundreds of miles of shoreline, disrupted power, water, energy sources in all of the gulf States, and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. There are just no parallels in size, scope, or impact to what has happened.

Now is the time for helping people get the food, water, and medical attention that they need. Now is the time to begin looking forward to how we will help the people of the gulf States recover and return to their homes and places of business. Now is not the time to point fingers or cast blame or, even worse, to call for the removal of key officials, especially since the response and relief effort is still ongoing.

There will be plenty of time in the coming weeks and months to evaluate what happened in the days leading up to and during the storm, to meet with responsible officials, to go over who did what and when, and, if necessary, to make policy and legislative changes. It is both unseemly and inappropriate to try and do so now, while we do not have all the facts.

I again want to express my sincere condolences to the families of those that have lost loved ones and pledge my support and the support of my constituents to do whatever is necessary to overcome this terrible challenge.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I agree with the gentleman that we are not in an atmosphere where we can properly evaluate and investigate what has happened here. I do think it important to note that the only way to avoid making mistakes is to look at the mistakes we have made.

I do want to say this for the record. It took us a very long time to get bipartisan support for a 9/11 Commission. Is anybody in this body sorry? What would have happened if history had looked back and said there was no independent commission that looked into 9/11?

In this same way, this natural disaster is the functional equivalent of 9/11 for natural disasters. We need an independent commission to do the kind of job that the 9/11 Commission did, and I think a fair reading of that report is not that it pointed fingers at anybody, but that it did advise what it is we should do.

We should quickly get about the business of appointing a commission equal to the task of doing a credible, unbiased, independent investigation in the name of the people of the gulf coast who have suffered and in the name of the people of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana for his leadership, and of course, express our sympathy and concern for the people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama; and I think the Congresswoman is an example of the outpouring of concern across the Nation, having received just recently a number of evacuees, survivors, into Washington, D.C. It is good to know that even people without votes can open their hearts and minds to this great and powerful, horrific incident that has occurred, a tragedy in our lives.

Let me first of all say to the members the families, those survivors, evacuees, and those who have lost loved ones, we are, in fact, our brothers' and sisters' keepers; and through the last 5 days I have been reminded more of the Good Samaritan parable in the Bible than at any other time in my life. We can say that Americans have certainly been the Good Samaritans, but I do want to take this time to acknowledge Houstonians and the people of Texas.

There has been such an outpouring of effort, volunteers coming from every walk of life, the mustering together of resources through the county, county judges and the mayor of the city of Houston. The pictures may not have been as pretty as we would have liked, but the immediate response of the Astrodome and the immediate response of the coming together of elected persons and now a facility in my congressional district, the George R. Brown Convention Center; and the thought that went into organizing this process was overwhelming. The local responding to the crying out of people who, as I walked through those aisles of cots and humanity, babies and elderly and the sickly and the strong, each and every one had a thank you on their lips and said that they still had hope.

As they lay there, to each of them I asked the question, were you in water? I could not imagine a 1-month-old or twins who were 1 month old or toddlers or 9-year-olds or amputees who had been in water, but each one had a sense of hope.

So to Houston, I want to give, if I could, the enormous gratitude of the American people because you had willing hands, and I might want to acknowledge that the pastors of that community, the religious community of all different faiths, they are on their job. Anyone who is asking the question where are the pastors, where are the religious leaders, they are there. We are hoping they will continue to be there at the will of the people, going in and nurturing and counseling and worshipping as they desire, not putting it on them, but as they desire. I encourage my community to allow all of the pastors into the areas where the people are desirous of them to come, but might I, as I offer sympathy, offer these points of concern.

We have to have policies today emphasizing the reunification of families, and it is necessary in the emergency supplemental to have the technology that will unite all of the shelters across America so that families can be reunited. I look forward to working on that language that gives the technology and underwrites that cost for local communities.

FEMA has to get more personnel on the ground. We cannot do it with 11 or 20. We must hire local officials, local people, and hire the victims or survivors. They can do it, and train the survivors to do the work that FEMA needs, the intake work, the counseling work or getting the information. We need to declare the area in this impact area a health crisis because we found E. coli. We have got to declare it a health crisis.

We need assistance with law enforcement, and the children have got to have special emphasis, language in the emergency supplemental, that deals with the plight of children not getting the education, health care, not because it is a desire, but we need the capacity.

Finally, might I say we are, in fact, our brothers' and sisters' keepers. We are the Good Samaritans, not by words but by deeds. An inquiry of commission is not finger-pointing; it is fact-finding so that America knows that the safety net of the Federal Government will never leave her abandoned. That is the crux of my advocacy and legislation on the inquiry; it is that America will never abandon her people.

God bless all of those who are now surviving, and God bless those who have lost their loved ones.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT). The State of Texas has been very, very generous in helping out, reaching out to evacuees.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana, a dear friend, for the time.

We have made a lot of new, dear friends in past days. There have been hundreds and thousands of people that have come through our east Texas area, and it has been a real privilege and honor to witness and to reach out to those folks that are staying in centers all over east Texas.

As my colleague, the gentlewoman from Houston, indicated, they have many tens of thousands in Houston; but it has been an amazing thing to watch. I have seen people on the networks, I have seen leaders in various positions accuse others of being racist in the handling of this matter. And I am telling my colleagues what: anybody that says that there is racist activity needs to come to east Texas because there Martin Luther King, Jr., I think, would be proud to see his dream taking effect, where people are judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character, and even one step further, beyond even character, by the depth of the pain and the hurt they are experiencing.

There are people, whites, blacks, Hispanics, different races, that have come together and embraced physically, literally, figuratively. The people all over that I have witnessed firsthand have opened their arms. They have opened their hearts. They have opened their wallets and become as one people, getting through this tragedy.

Abraham Lincoln is attributed to have said, Those who look for the good in man will surely find it. It is true. If we look for the good through this tragedy, we find incredible stories and testimonies of the goodness of man, of the hope that springs eternal in the human breast. They are all over the southern area of America as it is responding to this tragedy, and the hope continues.

I was continually asked by people who have come, many of them from New Orleans, most of them from southern Louisiana in our district, do you think we will ever rebuild? I am telling my colleagues, there will be a rebuilding. New Orleans, southern Louisiana, southern Mississippi, southern Alabama will rise again and be a testimony to the strength of character and the depth of compassion that exists in this country.

Our hearts and our prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones, who are continually reaching out trying to find their loved ones. We continue to help. The gentlewoman from Texas had a good idea, but our prayers and our efforts and our money will go to help those people.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this resolution.

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina has presented us with an unprecedented opportunity to focus the spotlight of public attention and political concern on not just doing the best job possible for the victims of this tragic storm but make it less likely that others suffer needlessly in the future. I think that this is the best way to honor the memory of the thousands who have died and respect the losses of tens of thousands more who are living.

I agree that the last thing we need to do is to jump to conclusions or be satisfied by drawing up a list of suspects responsible for what went wrong. There will be plenty of time to do this as the sad tragedy continues to unfold; but after having been in Congress for a decade, the greatest danger now I fear on the floor of the House is that we, under the pressure, will adopt a quick fix so that Congress looks like it is doing something.

□ 1115

While we focus relentlessly on rescue and relief, it is not too early to think about how to make sure that not only the residents of the Gulf of Mexico States are better off in the long run, but that all Americans are safer and more secure.

What is frustrating for me is not that this was just so obvious. I am tempted to ask how any official could assert the failure of the levees was unforeseen. Steps could have been taken to moderate the losses. I truly believe that thousands of people were killed, injured or lost their homes unnecessarily, and we must assure that it never happens again.

As Members of Congress, we are all concerned about the administration's well-publicized problems with performance, but I also know that long-term security must also start with State and local governments who must pay careful attention to making sure that people are not put in harm's way in the first instance. Businesses and individuals are going to have to share responsibility for their actions and their policies.

I am also concerned that we here in Congress acknowledge our responsibilities, because ultimately they are our budgets. We establish the Corps of Engineers' project list. We are the ones who put FEMA into the Department of Homeland Security. It is important for us to draw the right lessons from this situation. The rushed reaction to 9/11 put FEMA in a flawed Department of Homeland Security, which haunts us today and contributed to the misery of Katrina's victims.

We should establish fundamental principles from the outset that guide reconstruction. One critical overarching principle which is obvious, but sadly has not been practiced in the past, is that there should be no Federal investment that merely puts people back in harm's way and leaves the environment the same or worse than before. Our investments and our actions must leave people and the environment better than it was before. We must make a commitment for what we do in metropolitan New Orleans and indeed throughout the tri-State region of devastation to be a model about how to do it right. We must use this specific opportunity on a broad level to do the planning correctly.

As someone who has been working on these issues since long before coming to Congress, I look forward to working with all my colleagues, for we must come forward with our suggestions to advance the serious discussions and highlight the critical elements that must be included in any final plan. We must, at the end of the day, make sure that these communities are more livable and that all these families, indeed all American families, are safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER), my colleague and friend who has been involved in the relief efforts.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and doctor, for yielding me this time, and I want to express my appreciation to him for his leadership

in bringing this matter to the House's attention this morning.

And to the Chair and to Members I wish to express deep appreciation. I see my good friend, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), here this morning, whose district has been so adversely affected. I want to express to the Members of the House and to the Senate our appreciation for the extraordinary generosity, concern, and love that has been expressed in these preceding days.

To all Americans who have given of themselves, their time, their financial resources, their assets, it is an extraordinary thing to be on the end of people's generosity in a time of crisis, and it is a bit overwhelming. I can tell you that every dollar sent will be utilized for the highest and best purpose, that every bottle of water, every asset they choose to give us is indeed warranted and justified; and we are only in the early days of our difficulty.

I am told that there are areas in New Orleans where water may not yet be completely moved for another 80 days. So the stories will continue to unfold a day at a time, a week at a time, as the scope of this tragedy becomes fully appreciated.

To my fellow congressmen, the gentleman from South Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON), whose St. Bernard Parish is at the moment 10 feet under water; to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), who has lost his personal residence and all his congressional capabilities; to his staff, who have also lost their personal assets; and to Senator LOTT, who lost his home, which had stood for 151 years on the coast of Mississippi and endured the 200 mile-an-hour wrath of Hurricane Camille in 1969 and had no expectation that this storm would bring the consequences it brought.

On Sunday morning, before the storm's arrival on the following Monday, we heard this from the media: The storm has been downgraded from a Category 5 to a Category 4. It has now moved on an eastward track and will likely miss the city of New Orleans, and the evacuation has proceeded in an orderly and efficient manner. People are leaving in record numbers.

All of those predictions and observations were accurate. The storm missed New Orleans. It destroyed Mississippi. What we are now seeing is the aftermath of a levee failure. And with all due respect to those who have seen flood waters come and go for many decades, no one could predict the breach of those levees. No one expected it to occur. And the devastation that occurred was amplified by people who had stayed in their homes, survived 140-mile-an-hour winds, endured the passage of a 12-hour storm, saw the sun come out and the skies clear and think, we have made it. Within 20 minutes of a phone call to a New Orleans resident who was in one of those houses that survived, he had 3 feet of water in his home. He could not even grab resources

to get out quick enough. The water rose to 10 feet. Those in single-story structures were in great peril.

The magnitude of this tragedy cannot be explained in mere words. It is 90,000 square miles of devastation, and will more than double the cost of 9/11 to American citizens. The remedy is to get resources to people, get the lights on and let us go back to work.

There is corn and grain from the Midwest. Harvest season starts in 3 weeks. Sixty percent of that product goes through the Port of Orleans to the rest of the world. That has real economic implications for this Nation. Our petroleum industry needs to get back to work. Our port needs to get opened so dock workers can have jobs.

We can build ourselves back. We want to go to work. We need tolerance and patience and hope. We do not need recriminations and accusations today. The terrible scope of this tragedy is going to extend for 3 more months. There will be lots of time next year to decide who was at fault and what did not happen when it occurred.

I will tell you this: I am so appreciative to the President and the National Guard. My word, the personal effort these guys and ladies have put into their effort is just beyond comprehension. Many Louisianans, law enforcement, got in boats day and night to pull people out.

Everybody who has been touched by this wants the same thing: We want personal suffering to go away. We want lives to be restored and to go forward. Nobody got up and said, I am going to flip the switch off on the phones. No one said, I am not going if people need me.

The National Guard had to chain-saw their way from north Mississippi after the storm occurred to the coastal areas to get help in, and then we had the incredible event of people firing on their rescuers. This is unheard of. We then mobilized 7,500 National Guard. In any case, anywhere, any time, it takes 2 days to do that. It took 2 days to do it this time. Help is now on the ground. We have got a long way to go, but circumstances are better now than ever before.

Let me close and say, thank you, just a deep heartfelt thanks to America and thanks to this Congress. You guys are great, and we cannot make it without you.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to comment that I appreciate what the gentleman has just said about how much of this was unpredictable. There is no question that that is the case.

But, for the record, it must be said that the levee was built to withstand a Category 3 storm. So the Corps of Engineers has been saying, yelling for decades that no one can say we will not ever surpass a Category 3 storm. People will tell you in Louisiana that they have been talking about dodging the bullet for decades because they did not go above Category 3.

I hope that when we repair the damage, and it will take billions more than we can imagine now, that we will do what we say we are going to do for the possibility of terrorism, that is to say, prepare for the worst-case scenario, not the case scenario that we wish for. And the worst-case scenario is finally what Louisiana got.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for yielding me this time and this opportunity.

It is appropriate that we recognize, as this resolution does, the courage of those who have risked their lives to save lives in the gulf coast tragedy. It is appropriate, as this resolution does, that we offer condolences for those who have suffered such great loss. It is appropriate that we do these things. I would suggest that there is another way that this House can extend itself in an appropriate fashion to offer further condolences and consolation.

We can console the people of the gulf coast with a plan for complete recovery, a new national recovery act, if you will, in that we can console the people of the gulf coast region with food, with shelter, with clothing and with health care. We need the Center for Disease Control to be tasked immediately with the responsibility of making sure that conditions that could create cholera or typhoid are met with the full resources of our government, and that we control any conditions that could create an outbreak of disease that would be even more devastating than the conditions we find right now.

We can console the people of the gulf coast with complete efforts to reconnect families. We have heard over and over again how families have been broken up. We have heard over and over again how people are desperately searching for loved ones. Only our Federal Government can be involved effectively in helping to bring about the reuniting of families.

We can use our resources and effectively console people with complete rebuilding of the infrastructure. We know and we have heard many stories of how there were many plans to repair the infrastructure or to shore it up so that people would be spared the devastation that occurred. We need to move forward from this point and commit ourselves to seeing the infrastructure and flood control programs brought forward, and also to make sure that all of the structures that have been destroyed that are public structures are rebuilt.

We can console the people of the States who have been affected by this tragedy by helping to lift people out of poverty, to make sure that the jobs that are created are jobs that are created for people who live in the area, to make sure that people are paid a living wage. The whole Nation saw the images of poverty reflected in the rising

flood waters, but what we need to also show reflected is action from this Congress that would provide appropriate consolation for those who are mired in poverty.

We need to provide the resources that will rebuild the cities, that will provide jobs, and then we also can expect the cities to have responsibility then. One of the cruelest assertions that is occurring right now is certain Federal officials maintaining that local communities had the first responsibility in this regard. That is just not true. The Federal Government surely could have foreseen and taken action.

Well, now we can foresee the action that must be taken to rebuild communities. We can console the people with the health care system that would be expanded through Medicare so that people can not only receive the long-term care they are going to need but also the immediate short-term care that is vital to their survival.

□ 1130

We can console the people by providing appropriate environmental protections. Now we see the stories of pollution that was in New Orleans being pumped back into sources that are not polluted. We need to look at available technologies that can enable us to provide increased environmental protection in the immediate circumstances, while we are also trying to prepare for long-term environmental protection.

We can console the people by making sure their children will be educated during this time and setting up temporary schools.

We can console the people through letting them see their government finally at work and go from government inaction to seeing a government in action.

We can console the people by being there for them at once and repair the breach, not only that has occurred in a levee, but the breach of faith that people have had in their government.

This is the time for people to see their government in action, and I think that this Congress will provide effective consolation to the people when we take that position.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, this is not a time to cast blame and to second-guess actions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 5 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL), who lost his home, his district has been devastated, and he will inform us on what the facts are.

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Lafayette not only for recognizing me but also for his volunteer efforts and his community's hospitality to so many thousands of dislocated residents of my own district.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with this body that, first of all, the pictures do not do the suffering justice. I have been spending the last several days in the water, in helicopters, in boats, on land, just trying to help bring comfort

and trying to bring relief to the people of southeast Louisiana. The pictures do not do the suffering justice.

Yet there are some lessons that we have learned. Many of you have heard me share very specific frustrations about what has worked and what has not worked. Certainly we can learn from the red tape and the bureaucracy where aid could have been delivered more quickly, where relief could have been provided in a more efficient way.

But I am not here just to point out what did not work, and there are many examples where red tape and bureaucracy got in the way. I am also here to say a big thank you. I am here to offer on behalf of my district our sincere gratitude to the people of Baton Rouge and Lafayette; to the people of Texas and Arkansas; to the people across the country who literally took in thousands of evacuees, people who were forced, like myself, to leave our homes.

The State of Texas took in over 220,000 people. They did not ask how are we going to do this. They literally opened their homes, opened their wallets, opened their hearts to create temporary housing, to create health care, to create opportunities for people to find comfort.

I want to say thank you to the medical volunteers that rushed into harm's way. I want to say thank you to the first responders, the sheriffs' deputies, the law enforcement officials, the Coast Guard officials, Wildlife and Fisheries officials, those that have been working 7, 8, 9, 10 days without relief, without rest. Many of these heroes have no idea what happened to their own property. Many of these heroes have been separated from their own families. Yet they worked tirelessly to provide relief to others.

I want to say thank you to our National Guardsmen. If ever before we needed yet another reminder of the true heroism of our military, we saw tens of thousands of men and women on the ground in the most dangerous circumstances, thinking not of themselves, but of others.

I want to say thank you to the entire communities that pulled together, with the sheriffs, the mayors in my districts, who had so little, and yet reached out to their colleagues to share what they had, literally patching together impromptu communications systems, food supply systems, and other systems. Those that had the least shared the most.

I want to say thank you to all these people. We have been reminded again what a great and powerful country America really is.

I want to say thank you to the private sector. We called on Ford Motor Company to provide overnight search and rescue vehicles to first responders, and they did that. I want to say thank you to the bottling companies that sent the water, the food, the supplies, Anheuser Busch and the many other companies. I want to say thank you to Lamar for providing the tarps to cover people's homes.

I want to say thank you to all the companies like Verizon, Wal-Mart and others, the pharmaceutical companies and small businesses that opened their stores, opened their warehouses, provided during this time of need without any concern for compensation, without any concern for anything other than helping their fellow man.

I want to thank all those employers that have done so much work to find their missing employees, to set up shelters to truly meet our needs during this devastating tragedy.

I also want to comment on the amazing spontaneous effort by our faith-based community. Churches all over our State, all over our Nation literally opened their doors, made room in their pews, made room in their sanctuaries for families. One church, Healing Place in Baton Rouge, literally put up hand-lettered signs the day of and the day after the hurricane saying: "If you need water, if you need food, if you need shelter, come here."

We have private individuals across the State and now even outside the State that organized a network for people with extra bedrooms, extra places in their own homes to take in complete strangers.

Again, in this tragedy we have seen on TV and in national images some of the very worst behavior. And yet these are the very few, those that choose to be obstructionists to get in the way of the relief efforts, a very few who resorted to violence. They were outnumbered greatly by the tremendous number of people who opened their doors, opened their hearts, opened their wallets.

Let us not let the images of a small number of people who out of frustration or for whatever other reasons became violent, became obstructionists, let us not let them be the final story of Hurricane Katrina. Let us look to the churches, let us look to the first responders, let us look to the National Guard, let us look to the communities in Texas, in Arkansas, across the country, that have been so generous.

Now I want to say a word to this body about what comes next. We are still rescuing people from the water and off the rooftops. We have an obligation to bring people to safety. We have an obligation to cut through the red tape and bring people housing, make sure that people know where their kids will go to school, how they get their health care. We also have an obligation to rebuild. We have an obligation to rebuild southeast Louisiana.

But shame on us if we also at the same time we preserve and rebuild what was good in southeast Louisiana, we also rebuild what was bad. Shame on us if we do not use this as an opportunity to rebuild a better health care system, a better educational system, a better economy, better paying jobs for the people that are coming back. We want every single person to come back to a better city, to a better region.

We had problems in New Orleans and in southeast Louisiana before the hur-

ricane. We had problems with education, we had problems with health care, we had problems with crime, we had problems in our economy. Things were getting better, but more can be done.

I want to say thank you to those who have been so generous; but I want to urge this body as we are generous in our response, let us keep our eye also on saving lives, but also on rebuilding a better city, a better region.

God bless Louisiana.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Orleans, Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON). I am sure perhaps no Member has suffered more greatly than the Member I am about to yield the floor to now.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed with a heavy heart that I rise today in this Chamber to support this resolution. I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), for his work.

During my 15 years in the people's House, we have confronted many trying circumstances: runaway fires in the West, rolling blackouts across the Northeast, the extraordinary destruction of Hurricane Andrew, the horror of September 11. And the Asian tsunami. But my heart has never been as personally struck and touched as by the tragedy of a disaster as it is now.

Just over a week ago when Hurricane Katrina roared ashore, it left wide paths of destruction, unprecedented in American history. The citizens of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and my home State of Louisiana have suffered unspeakable tragedies. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of lives have been lost. Hundreds of thousands of homes have been destroyed and shuttered. Thousands of businesses have been closed, at the risk of perhaps never opening again.

The images in the news media shocked the American people, but they are only a pale reflection of the devastation experienced by our friends, families, and neighbors throughout the gulf coast region.

My hometown of New Orleans, my constituents, friends and family, thought they had once again dodged a bullet when Hurricane Katrina changed course at the last minute, making landfall in another place bordering the city.

But we woke Tuesday morning to a heart-wrenching discovery. The levee system that had protected New Orleans for hundreds of years had failed. Our city was inundated, 80 percent of it, with deadly water. Thousands of lives were lost, many drowned, trapped in their homes. Others were lost trying to escape the fury. Others were lost unnecessarily through neglect, and still others have now survived and are spread far and wide throughout the country, have lost their sense of place and their connection to home.

Our neighbors and families are living in shelters, staying with friends or family, benefiting from the hospitality and kindness of caring Americans. Tens of thousands of homes have been destroyed, churches and businesses at the heart of many of our beloved city's neighborhoods have been flooded and lay in ruins.

In sum, Hurricane Katrina was more than a destructive hurricane. It has dealt a death blow to the very fabric and culture of a grand American city and region. Hurricane Katrina has left most of New Orleans, known for its vibrant spirit and vitality, threadbare and melancholy.

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) talked about the people of our city, and I want to say something about that too.

The spirit of the folks in my city, although beaten down, is still vibrant. If you saw the people who were standing and waiting for help, they were orderly. They were a model of orderliness in most cases. When I went down Friday to see folks at the convention center, they simply said to me, Jeff, help us get out of here. When are the buses coming?

The few scenes you have seen of some people taking advantage of people who were there in dire circumstances are few and far between. The image that we want to remember is one of people who endured unnecessary suffering and who stood strongly and in an orderly fashion and dealt with it. I am so proud of our people for having done that.

I also am proud of the outpouring of support that has come from around the country. I want to thank my colleagues for their words of encouragement, for their support, and for their prayers: from the mayor of Detroit, who told us we could bring in 500 families, to just one man from San Diego who offered his small plane to the folks in New Orleans, to pick them up and take them to safety, and one couple from Illinois who called us saying they had just sent their three kids off to college and they had three spare bedrooms for anyone who needed them.

The generosity has been overwhelming. It has reminded us that the human spirit is vibrant and that goodwill is abundant in the American people's hearts.

I want to thank all those who contacted my family, my office, to express concern, those who are now telling us they want to help to reach our constituents, to get our constituent services back together. And I want to thank all of you who have worked with us over the Labor Day weekend. I want to thank my CBC colleagues who have initiated unprecedented efforts to marshal resources to help dislocated Louisianans.

I want to tell you that the most important thing we can do right now is to make sure that people who are displaced are dealt with with dignity, that they are taken care of properly and their needs are met, and that we try as

soon as we can and as well as we can to get our people back home, back to the State of Louisiana, back connected to their way of life, back connected to their culture, back connected to their people, and that we commit ourselves for the long haul to rebuild our city, to rebuild our region, and to rebuild the lives of our people. This is our mission now in the Congress.

Also, though we look at all the good things that have happened, it is not inappropriate to ask the question as to whether or not we could not have done a better job. The President himself has said that the response is unacceptable.

So I am one who believes that as we do these other things and as we congratulate each other for the work we have done, and as I congratulate the Red Cross and the FEMA workers that have given a great deal, and our responders, our mayor and our State government, our police and fire people, that we recognize there is a need to do better for our people, and in the future we would make sure that things that did not go right never ever happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone for what they have done. We appreciate it very much.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana not only for bringing forward this resolution but also for the great work that he did in the State of Louisiana in regard to organizing medical clinics and emergency health care, and I commend him for that.

This is a great resolution. It emphasizes a positive. There is no finger-pointing, name-blame game. This is exactly the kind of resolution that shows the spirit of this Congress.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), I will just tell a little story about that, what really inspired me to go to Louisiana over the Labor Day weekend in Baton Rouge and try to help out in a medical clinic.

I saw the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) on television talking about Jefferson Parish and the devastation and how much they had suffered. I was fortunate enough when I went to the emergency command center in Baton Rouge to run into my friend, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON); and we had a brief hug, pat on the back, sincere handshake and the spirit of cooperation that he just expressed so eloquently.

I want to echo what the gentleman said and what the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) and, of course, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) and all of the legislative delegation Members of this Congress from the States that have been so adversely affected, especially Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, said.

My own state of Georgia was not unscathed.

□ 1145

We had a number of tornadoes that came as a result of the hurricane that touched down in the 11th Congressional District, and one life was lost and a business destroyed in Carrollton, Georgia.

So, again, I commend and support, as we all do, this resolution, which is just saying it in the right way, totally non-partisan.

When I was on the ground in Louisiana, I had an opportunity to see a lot of the evacuees and the Red Cross and the many people coming together. I saw the best of human nature, not the worst. And I think this is truly a time for the best of the human nature of the Members of this Congress, on both sides of the aisle, both bodies, to come together because this is all about uplifting people and the ones that are suffering so much.

And let us not forget that the suffering continues. It is not just the emergency response, but it is going to go on a long time, and fatigue might set in for some of the volunteers; so we need to keep a list and keep going and continue to support the gulf coast in that great part of the United States.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) for the resolution and thank him for yielding me time for the opportunity to join in and say a few words.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I just have a few closing remarks. We all agree that the first obligation of any government is to protect its citizens. The majority often say that, and we have seen no contradiction from this side on that score. And I think there has been agreement that we have not fully honored that responsibility.

It was with a great deal of thought that I became a cosponsor of the bill today, H.R. 3659, to reestablish FEMA as an independent agency outside the control of the bureaucracy of the Department of Homeland Security. I did not do that easily. Frankly, I strongly supported and still support the establishment of a Department of Homeland Security. So I had to think about this matter. Is this a contradiction from what I generally believe, that these agencies must be brought together?

I have resolved that conflict in my mind because it is clear that FEMA is not about preventing anything. FEMA is about going in quickly and nimbly after there has been either an actual natural attack or a national attack; and there is telling evidence about how we have diverted funds from FEMA's natural disaster responsibilities to our legitimate concern with preparation for terrorism.

I believe, therefore, that we do no harm to the notion of one cohesive unit, the Homeland Security Department, to prevent attacks if we have FEMA outside. I think that FEMA simply has not done well inside the Department of Homeland Security. I cannot guarantee that taking it out will

make it whole again. I do know this: that we did not have complaints about FEMA during the 1990s, and I remember FEMA's being held to great glory for how they handled and how they were reorganized during the 1990s.

I, therefore, want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana for coming forward and to say that I know I speak for every Member on my side when I say he will have our full cooperation, more than our empathy, our full cooperation when it comes to Louisiana and the entire gulf coast. I thank him for his initiative. I am pleased to be a part of it.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentlewoman for her kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives, through this resolution, expresses its condolences to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. It commends the resiliency and the courage of all those involved in this, both the victims and the volunteers, who gave so willingly to help these victims. It also makes clear that we have a tremendous task ahead of us in Congress; and yet I know, as many others here know, that we are up to the task.

What we are going to do is we will commit the necessary resources to stand by the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama who have been affected by this disaster. We have a tremendous task ahead in sustaining life as we continue to search for and rescue those still missing. We have a tremendous effort ahead in the recovery of the entire gulf coast, and I know this Congress is up to that task.

So I stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in expressing these condolences and urge support for this resolution. It is time to move forward. It is time for action so that we can get on with recovery.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of students have been displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina, including university students who rely on federal financial aid for their education expenses.

Several institutions have had to close for the entire semester, leaving students without schools to attend.

Fortunately, other colleges have stepped up and are accepting many of these students. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is one example of this generosity. They have already enrolled over 835 displaced students, and the numbers are expected to increase.

But not all students will be able to attend other institutions.

Many have suffered large losses of property, jobs, and, most devastatingly, family and friends.

In the past, low-income students who were the recipient of need-based Pell grants and suffered extreme losses due to natural disasters have been forced to repay their Pell grants, further straining their financial resources.

H.R. 3169 will provide financial relief to many students displaced by Katrina by waiving the Pell Grant repayment for those students withdrawing from school as a result of the hurricane, and it will also ensure that future natural disaster victims are treated in the same manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure, which will assist thousands of needy students who have been dealt an enormous blow by Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have spent much of the past week examining the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, one of the most tragic natural disasters in our Nation's history. My heart goes out to each and every person who has suffered in the wake of this situation. I grieve for the loss of life, and I sympathize with those who have lost their livelihood as a result of this terrible tragedy.

First and foremost, it is important to give credit to countless brave men and women, both volunteer and professional, who have been working tirelessly on our recovery and rescue operations. Their heroic efforts have saved countless lives, and we need to ensure they have the support and tools they need to accomplish their jobs. In addition, it is important to recognize National Guard Units and other emergency management professionals who have been attempting to restore order under exceptionally trying circumstances.

Hurricane Katrina has proven to be one of the most damaging storms ever experienced by the people of the Gulf Coast. It will take a long time for this area of the country to regain some semblance of normalcy—a process that will depend on the collective acts of kindness, generosity, and selflessness of all Americans as much as it does the acts of government. I salute those who have already volunteered their services, donated money or goods, or opened their homes to their displaced countrymen.

In the weeks and months to come, much of our attention in Washington will be focused on the response to Katrina. There will be much to say and plenty of time to say it. But for now I want to pause to remember the victims of this storm and to grieve for their passing. For the survivors, I offer my condolences and, through the work we will pursue together, as one Nation, the prospect of hope.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, our deepest condolences go to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, who lost their lives, their homes and their livelihoods. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families. While the devastation caused by this tragedy is vast, our faith and determination ensure that we will rebuild and we will endure.

Congress and President Bush have taken the first step in appropriating emergency funds to aid relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and much more is on the way. It is vital that this emergency funding moves quickly toward rescue and relief efforts in the Gulf Coast region and throughout the Nation. Together, Federal, State and local authorities must continue to work diligently to protect and assist those in need.

In Texas, we are opening our hearts, homes, and facilities to over 75,000 victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Federal Government has a responsibility to help communities in Texas who are generously helping others during this time of national tragedy.

During this difficult time, most Americans have shown an inspirational outpouring of support for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. However, it appears that some have acted out of greed and taken advantage of our national tragedy by price gouging Americans when it comes to basic necessities like gas, food, and shelter. That is totally unacceptable and the

Federal Government must act quickly to fulfill its responsibility to protect the public and hold price gougers accountable.

History will judge all of us by our response to this national tragedy and it is vital that we come together, rise above the partisanship, and do what's right for the American people in this time of crisis.

I am confident that we will and the American spirit of generosity will prevail in the days, weeks, and months ahead, as our American family from coast to coast continues to provide much needed assistance to those who have lost so much.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, as the waters recede in New Orleans and as the families impacted by Hurricane Katrina attempt to recover, we must now embark upon the monumental task of helping to rebuild both the infrastructure and vitality of the Gulf Coast communities. We also have begun to reflect on the tragedy, one which many say is one of the worst disasters to strike an American city in our history. The people of Guam would like to express their condolences to the families that have lost loved ones, and to the thousands of people who are now struggling to recover from what can only be described as a humanitarian catastrophe.

Families and individuals have been uprooted, homes have been destroyed, and the process of rebuilding will be long and arduous. The communities involved depend upon support from Congress, and we must fully fund every stage of the recovery that is necessary to rebuild homes and lives.

We must also ensure that our cities and coastlines are protected as best as possible from perilous storms. The people of Guam know far too well the toll that hurricanes can have upon a population. Located in what is known as "Typhoon Alley" in the Pacific Ocean, our island is annually threatened and sometimes pummeled by typhoons that can have winds upwards of 180 miles per hour. These Super Typhoons have the potential for widespread devastation, but Guam is well prepared to withstand these potentially destructive storms. From tough building codes to a stratified warning system, Guam is in a state of constant readiness. In fact, at the time Hurricane Katrina was intensifying in the Gulf of Mexico, Guam was in a state of readiness as Typhoon Nabi was forecast to make a direct hit. In our case, the storm turned away, but nonetheless Guam was bracing for the worst.

There is more our island needs to do to be better prepared for Typhoons, such as burying our power lines and improving our water system. We continue to perfect our disaster preparedness plan and harden our infrastructure. Our community, as well as all communities across the Nation, are now more dependent than ever on the support of the Federal Government to help us prepare for and recover from devastating storms. It is imperative that at-risk areas be better equipped and prepared, from the Federal level to the local level, to deal with hurricanes and other natural disasters.

I support House Resolution 425 and urge its passage. Together, let us as a Congress, express the Nation's sorrow for the victims of this tragedy.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, sadly, approaching the four year anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, our

country faces great tragedy again and a tremendous national challenge in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

I would like to assure the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama that New Yorkers who lived through 9/11 understand the shock and dismay being felt deeply after Hurricane Katrina.

We are well aware that time and great effort will be needed to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, but we know also that the recovery will advance strongly because of the great will of the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. I also hope that the recovery will be spurred by the strong support most assuredly coming from countless New Yorkers and Americans from all corners of the country.

I stand ready to work with Members of Congress from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama to advance all Federal programs necessary for recovery operations after Katrina. My thoughts and prayers are with those affected by Hurricane Katrina and with the people now facing great recovery challenges in its wake.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my deepest condolences to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, many of whom lost loved ones, their homes and their livelihoods. Many constituents have contacted my office, concerned about relatives, friends, and fellow Americans in that area. A member of my own staff has been touched by this tragedy and has dozens of family members displaced and in distress. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and all those other families who have been affected by this disaster.

While we are devastated by this tragedy, our faith, perseverance and American spirit of generosity will ensure that we help the region and its residents recover and rebuild.

The Pacific Northwest, where my Congressional District is located, is about as far north and west of this tragedy as you can get in the continental U.S. Yet even there, Governor Gregoire is coordinating with state and Federal officials nationwide to get state employees and volunteers on the ground in the affected areas. Our state has readied 600 Washington National Guard soldiers and airmen. We have offered up our State's refueling aircraft, support personnel, helicopters, and satellite communications systems, among other assets. Washington State's residents are giving generously to aid relief efforts and victims. It is likely that we will soon provide a temporary home to thousands of displaced hurricane victims.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to organizations such as the Red Cross for their significant disaster relief efforts. The Red Cross has said that this is their largest relief effort ever—larger than after September 11, 2001, and larger than all four Florida hurricanes last year. We continue hearing heartwarming stories of American Red Cross volunteers from across the Nation, including in my Congressional District, who have already headed down to help with relief efforts.

As we respond to this tragedy, I will continue working with my colleagues to provide needed Federal assistance to the people harmed by this disaster. I know that in months ahead there will be much work to do. As Americans, we have pulled together through tragedies in the past. I am confident that we will demonstrate that same unity and perseverance in overcoming the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, 10 days ago Hurricane Katrina slammed into America's Gulf Coast. The devastation we have seen is unprecedented. While the Federal Government's response to this devastation has itself been a management catastrophe, I have been heartened by the overwhelming response of our fellow Americans to the victims of Katrina. People have opened their homes and their hearts to their victims. They have donated food, clothing, and money. The goodness of our citizens to one another, especially in their time of need, should make all Americans proud.

With a heavy heart, but with confidence in a better future, I join all my colleagues today in expressing my personal deep sense of sorrow and offering the condolences of a nation to all the victims of Hurricane Katrina. All who have watched these tragic events unfold before us on TV are inspired by, and in awe of, the resilience of the New Orleanians, their courage under adversity, their extraordinary self-sacrifice in mutual assistance, their love of their city, and their determination to rebuild their lives. I pledge my enduring efforts—and I know that my colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure join in this pledge—to provide New Orleans and the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, the resources necessary for the reconstruction efforts.

Today we must remain focused on the recovery from the devastation wrought by Katrina. However, in the coming weeks and months, this Congress must investigate the Government's disastrous response to this disaster. To begin that process, Congresswoman NORTON and I have introduced a bill, H.R. 3659, to reestablish FEMA as an independent agency outside of the control of the bureaucracy of the Department of Homeland Security.

The Government's first priority must be to protect its citizens. It has failed to honor that responsibility, and we must insure that such failure never happens again.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the resolution is considered as read and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

FEDERAL JUDICIARY EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSIONS ACT OF 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3650) to allow United States courts to conduct business during emergency conditions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3650

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT COURT PROCEEDINGS OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE COURT.

(a) CIRCUIT COURTS.—Section 48 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) Each court of appeals may hold special sessions at any place within the United States outside the circuit as the nature of the business may require and upon such notice as the court orders, upon a finding by either the chief judge of the court of appeals (or, if the chief judge is unavailable, the most senior available active judge of the court of appeals) or the judicial council of the circuit that, because of emergency conditions, no location within the circuit is reasonably available where such special sessions could be held. The court may transact any business at a special session outside the circuit which it might transact at a regular session.

"(f) If a court of appeals issues an order exercising its authority under subsection (e), the court—

"(1) through the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, shall—

"(A) send notice of such order, including the reasons for the issuance of such order, to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

"(B) not later than 180 days after the expiration of such court order submit a brief report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives describing the impact of such order, including—

"(i) the reasons for the issuance of such order;

"(ii) the duration of such order;

"(iii) the impact of such order on litigants; and

"(iv) the costs to the judiciary resulting from such order; and

"(2) shall provide reasonable notice to the United States Marshals Service before the commencement of any special session held pursuant to such order."

(b) DISTRICT COURTS.—Section 141 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)(1)" before "Special";

(2) by inserting “(2)” before “Any”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b)(1) Special sessions of the district court may be held at such places within the United States outside the district as the nature of the business may require and upon such notice as the court orders, upon a finding by either the chief judge of the district court (or, if the chief judge is unavailable, the most senior available active judge of the district court) or the judicial council of the circuit that, because of emergency conditions, no location within the district is reasonably available where such special sessions could be held.

“(2) Pursuant to this subsection, any business which may be transacted at a regular session of a district court may be transacted at a special session conducted outside the district, except that a criminal trial may not be conducted at a special session outside the State in which the crime has been committed unless the defendant consents to such a criminal trial.

“(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any case in which special sessions are conducted pursuant to this section, the district court may summon jurors—

“(A) in civil proceedings, from any part of the district in which the court ordinarily conducts business or the district in which it is holding a special session; and

“(B) in criminal trials, from any part of the district in which the crime has been committed and, if the defendant so consents, from any district in which the court is conducting business pursuant to this section.

“(4) If a district court issues an order exercising its authority under paragraph (1), the court—

“(A) through the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, shall—

“(i) send notice of such order, including the reasons for the issuance of such order, to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

“(ii) not later than 180 days after the expiration of such court order submit a brief report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives describing the impact of such order, including—

“(I) the reasons for the issuance of such order;

“(II) the duration of such order;

“(III) the impact of such order on litigants; and

“(IV) the costs to the judiciary resulting from such order; and

“(B) shall provide reasonable notice to the United States Marshals Service before the commencement of any special session held pursuant to such order.”.

(c) BANKRUPTCY COURTS.—Section 152(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2)(A) Bankruptcy judges may hold court at such places within the United States outside the judicial district as the nature of the business of the court may require, and upon such notice as the court orders, upon a finding by either the chief judge of the bankruptcy court (or, if the chief judge is unavailable, the most senior available bankruptcy judge) or by the judicial council of the circuit that, because of emergency conditions, no location within the district is reasonably available where the bankruptcy judges could hold court.

“(B) Bankruptcy judges may transact any business at special sessions of court held outside the district pursuant to this paragraph that might be transacted at a regular session.

“(C) If a bankruptcy court issues an order exercising its authority under subparagraph (A), the court—

“(i) through the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, shall—

“(I) send notice of such order, including the reasons for the issuance of such order, to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

“(II) not later than 180 days after the expiration of such court order submit a brief report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives describing the impact of such order, including—

“(aa) the reasons for the issuance of such order;

“(bb) the duration of such order;

“(cc) the impact of such order on litigants; and

“(dd) the costs to the judiciary resulting from such order; and

“(ii) shall provide reasonable notice to the United States Marshals Service before the commencement of any special session held pursuant to such order.”.

(d) UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGES.—Section 636 of title 28, United States Code, is amended in subsection (a) by striking “territorial jurisdiction prescribed by his appointment—” and inserting “district in which sessions are held by the court that appointed the magistrate judge, at other places where that court may function, and elsewhere as authorized by law—”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3650.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of this body is aware of the scope of the tragedy and destruction that Hurricane Katrina inflicted on the gulf coast region, and Congress has already taken several steps to bring relief to the affected States and their people. In addition to the thousands of private residences and businesses destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by the hurricane and subsequent floods, many entities of the Federal Government located in that region may not be able to operate for a time period that remains uncertain.

The creation and maintenance of a court system that allows citizens to adjudicate disputes is a fundamental responsibility of government. The purpose of H.R. 3650 is to authorize Federal courts to conduct business outside of their statutorily defined geographic domains during times of emergency. It is critical that Congress enact the legislation expeditiously so that the affected courts in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama may continue to function in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The text of H.R. 3650 is substantially similar to section 15 of H.R. 1751, the Secure Access to Justice and Court Restoration Act of 2005, which the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security reported to the full Committee on the Judiciary on June 30.

Mr. Speaker, the need for this legislation became tragically apparent following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the impact of these disasters on court operations, particularly in New York City. In emergency conditions, a Federal court facility in an adjoining district or circuit might more readily and safely be available to court personnel, litigants, jurors, and the public than a facility at the place of holding court within the district. This is especially true in major metropolitan areas such as New York, Washington, D.C., Dallas, and Kansas City, where the metropolitan area includes parts of more than one judicial district.

This legislation is also needed to address natural disasters. The recent impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Federal courts in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama has increased the urgency of congressional action. Where court operations cannot be transferred to other divisions within the affected judicial district due to widespread flooding and destruction, judges must be empowered to shift court proceedings temporarily into a neighboring judicial district.

The advent of electronic court record systems will facilitate the implementation of this authority by providing judges, court staff, and attorneys with remote access to case documents. The bill authorizes circuit, district, and bankruptcy courts that conduct special sessions outside of their respective geographic boundaries upon a finding that because of emergency conditions, no locations within the boundaries of those courts are reasonably available where such special sessions could be held.

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, or AO, is required to notify the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary, as well as the Marshals Service when a court issues an order to conduct an emergency session. The AO must also follow up no later than 180 days after such an order expires by submitting a brief report to both committees summarizing why the order was issued, its duration, its impact on litigants, and its cost to the judiciary.

The bill specifies that criminal trials may not be conducted outside the State in which a crime has been committed unless a defendant otherwise consents. This is consistent with the provisions of article III of the Constitution and the sixth amendment. With this one exception, a Federal court is empowered to conduct all business in a special session outside a district that it might otherwise conduct during a regular session.

Given these constitutional constraints, however, jurors in criminal

trials may only be summoned from "any part of the district in which the crime has been committed," unless a defendant agrees to be tried by jurors from the district in which the court is holding a special session.

Finally, United States magistrate judges are currently subject to certain territorial limitations on their powers imposed by the Federal Magistrates Act. The bill clarifies that magistrate judges can also participate in the emergency extraterritorial sessions of the district courts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation to return a measure of continuity to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the Federal Court system that serves them.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter from the Justice Department in support of this legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF
THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GEN-
ERAL

Washington, DC, September 7, 2005.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to express the views of the Department on H.R. 3650, "The Federal Emergency Special Sessions Act of 2005." We support swift enactment of this legislation.

This bill is drawn from other legislation currently being considered in the Congress that will permit Federal courts to conduct business in other locations in the event of an emergency situation. The need for this bill has been clearly demonstrated by the recent catastrophe caused by Hurricane Katrina, which has already caused extreme disruption to the courts. Passing this bill on an emergency basis will permit the Federal Courts to return to the Nation's critical business more quickly and more easily.

The Department already has commented on similar provisions in prior legislation and some of our prior comments have been addressed in this bill. In future legislation, we will continue to seek refinement of the law in this area, particularly as it relates to the critical need for consultation and coordination between the Judiciary and the Marshals Service in the event of any serious emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views. The Office of Management and Budget has advised us that from the perspective of the Administration's program, there is no objection to submission of this letter.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. MOSCHELLA,
Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, Mr. Speaker, join the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary in rising in support of this legislation. One of the many effects of the terrible tragedy resulting from Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst in our history, is the problem that the Federal courthouses in the region are flooded, preventing countless civil and criminal cases from proceeding. This legislation would permit the circuit courts, the district courts, magistrates, and the

bankruptcy courts to all conduct proceedings outside their normal jurisdictions in times of emergency. These courts are, in many instances, closed as we meet today in Washington.

Terrorist attacks and natural disasters can render unusable the Federal courthouses. Along with the tragic humanitarian results of such events, the administration of justice would come to a halt, preventing citizens from exercising their rights in court. In such circumstances, the chief judge of the court or judicial council of the circuit court could order the court proceedings to be conducted at any other place within the United States.

Upon such an order, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts would notify Congress of the reasons. Also, within 180 days of the termination of the special session, the Administrative Office would notify us of the order's duration, its impact on litigants, and the cost to the judiciary.

This bill, H.R. 3650, further provides that jurors for civil cases may come from either the original or the temporary jurisdiction of the court. With respect to criminal cases, the legislation preserves the sixth amendment rights of defendants by limiting the jury pool to the district where the crime is committed, unless the defendant consents otherwise.

There is an issue not addressed in the bill, and that is who would pay for the parties, including criminal defendants, to travel to the new location. Presumably, because a public function is at issue, the government should pay such expenses. It would be untenable for the courts and prosecutors to travel at government expense while defendants are left to fend for themselves in times of disaster. I am hoping that this can be corrected. There may be due process and sixth amendment violations if we force defendants to pay their own way to a distant courthouse. I hope to work with my colleagues in the House and Senate and the chairman of our committee in the House in the coming weeks to ensure that this oversight is properly resolved.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that we in the Congress must do more, much more, to alleviate the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Thousands of people may be forced to seek bankruptcy protection, but now will be subjected to the onerous and creditor friendly provisions of the newly enacted bankruptcy law, including its means test, which goes into effect on October 17. Victims of disasters and other tragedies, I think, ought to be exempt from such rigid requirements.

We have also heard countless reports of price gouging at gas stations. Big oil says the pipelines and refineries are down, thus limiting supply and increasing prices, but somehow they still continue to reap record profits. Along with a number of my colleagues, I have called upon the Federal Trade Commission to investigate this profiteering.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3650, the Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions

Act of 2005, deserves the support of every Member in this body.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) makes a good point relative to the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of parties, particularly those who may be indigent, and I think that we ought to look at this issue as time progresses, basically in seeing how far away criminal trials have to be moved away from New Orleans and the other places on the gulf coast where the courts are either impaired or not able to function in their chosen venues.

However, I would point out that the Office of General Counsel For the Administrative Office of the Courts advises that jurors may obtain reimbursement for mileage, subsistence, and lodging expenses under this bill just as they may under normal circumstances. Similarly, there is the payment of travel and subsistence expenses for witnesses who will be available during the emergency special sessions under the bill.

As far as the parties are concerned, particularly the indigent ones, I can give the gentleman from Michigan my assurance that we all will continue to work with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the appropriators, and the Senate on this point. I think the thing that we have got to do now is to get this bill enacted into law as quickly as possible so that the courts can be up and running to do their business even though their current facilities may still be under water.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chair of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3650, the Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Act of 2005. H.R. 3650 authorizes Federal courts to conduct business outside of their geographic jurisdictions during times of emergency. Congress must enact this legislation immediately so that the affected courts in the gulf region can continue to operate in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Hurricane Katrina has severely damaged, perhaps ravaged is a better word, Federal courthouses in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. We must act with a sense of urgency. To illustrate why, consider the Eastern Judicial District of Louisiana, where operations are currently suspended.

There is virtually no Federal district court presence there. Judges and court staff are physically scattered throughout Louisiana and other States. But crime in the district, assault, rape, and robbery, has not taken the week off. Yet there is no court that can act and no judge to preside. Criminal defendants will walk if deadlines established in the Speedy Trial Act cannot be met. In other words, we must restore the rule of law in the Eastern District of Louisiana as well as elsewhere.

□ 1645

The bill contemplates that affected courts could use other facilities that are convenient and practicable to participants under the circumstances. The special circumstances allowing courts to operate outside their normal jurisdictions would continue only until the vacated courthouses could be restored for normal business activities.

We need to enact H.R. 3650 as part of the initial effort to help the displaced citizens of the region get back on their feet.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3650, as we are all aware, much if not all of the Gulf Coast region has been flooded by the devastating forces of Hurricane Katrina. I personally spent 4 days in shelters in and around the Houston area, so I have first hand knowledge of the devastation this natural disaster has caused as well as what the evacuees are going through. In addition to the many problems that have resulted from the aftermath of this hurricane, many of the Federal courthouses in the region are flooded; thus, preventing countless civil and criminal cases from proceeding. Furthermore, many attorneys and court employees have been displaced, not only from their homes, but also from their jobs. H.R. 3650 would permit the circuit courts, district courts, magistrates, and bankruptcy courts to conduct proceedings outside their normal territorial jurisdictions in times of emergency.

The bill further provides that jurors for civil cases may come from either the original or temporary jurisdiction of the court. With respect to criminal cases, the legislation preserves the Sixth Amendment rights of defendants by limiting the jury pool to the district where the crime is committed unless the defendant consents otherwise. While these are issues are important, the bill fails to address who would pay for the parties to the case to travel to the new location. Presumably because a public function is at issue, the government should pay such expenses. It would be untenable for the courts and prosecutors to travel at government expense while defendants are left to fend for themselves in times of disaster. There may be due process and Sixth Amendment violations if we force defendants to pay their own way to distant courthouses.

In spite of my support for this bill, I hope the concerns I just mentioned can be worked out in the coming weeks as this bill moves forward. In closing, I strongly believe we must do much more to alleviate the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Thousands of people may be forced to seek bankruptcy protection but now will be subject to the onerous and creditor-friendly provisions of the newly-enacted bankruptcy law, including its means test. Victims of

disasters and other tragedies should be exempt from such rigid requirements.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3650.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PELL GRANT HURRICANE AND DISASTER RELIEF ACT

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3169) to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell grants who are adversely affected by a natural disaster, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3169

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act".

SEC. 2. WAIVERS OF FEDERAL PELL GRANT REPAYMENT BY STUDENTS AFFECTED BY DISASTERS.

Section 484B(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091b(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) WAIVERS OF FEDERAL PELL GRANT REPAYMENT BY STUDENTS AFFECTED BY DISASTERS.—The Secretary may waive the amounts that students are required to return under this section with respect to Federal Pell Grants if the withdrawals on which the returns are based are withdrawals by students—

"(i) who were residing in, employed in, or attending an institution of higher education that is located in an area in which the President has declared that a major disaster exists, in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

"(ii) whose attendance was interrupted because of the impact of the disaster on the student or the institution; and

"(iii) whose withdrawal ended within the academic year during which the designation occurred or during the next succeeding academic year."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3169.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I introduced the Pell Grant Hurricane and Natural Disaster Relief Act.

Last week Hurricane Katrina struck Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. While the damage from this storm is particularly tragic, the hurricane's devastation was a familiar sight. Last year, four hurricanes ravaged Florida over a 40-day period. Many students lost their homes, their jobs, and they were forced to withdraw from school.

In addition to all the suffering they underwent, Pell grant recipients who withdrew from classes were forced to repay any Pell grant funds they used to pay for school expenses beyond fees and tuition, or else were barred from enrolling in future classes.

I believe that our neediest students, who would not have access to college without Pell grants, should not be further punished after enduring a natural disaster.

After writing a letter to the Secretary of Education to ask for relief for these students, I discovered that students who are victims of natural disasters can receive similar help with regard to student loans, but the only way to help Pell grant recipients is by passing this legislation.

My bill would allow the Secretary, in her discretion, to provide a waiver for repaying Pell grants for students who were forced to withdraw from classes due to a natural disaster as declared by the President of the United States.

Language from this bill was incorporated into the higher education bill passed by the Committee on Education and the Workforce earlier this year with unanimous, bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3169.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 3169, the Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act recognizing the state of emergency that the country is in in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Hundreds of thousands of people have been left homeless with hundreds, maybe even thousands, dead.

Nearly 100,000 college students have been displaced in some 30 colleges in the gulf coast region that have been severely damaged by the hurricane. In addition, countless more student borrowers have been left without jobs, without any income, and yet must

repay their college loans. I support this legislation because it is the right thing to do, and I want to thank the gentleman from Florida for introducing this legislation and responding in this manner so quickly.

It authorizes, as the gentleman said, the Secretary of Education to waive the requirement for students to repay their Pell grants if they withdraw from college due to a disaster. The Secretary can use this authority to ensure that the Pell grant recipients affected by Hurricane Katrina are not punished financially as a result of this national emergency.

While this is a necessary and appropriate step, we also must recognize that Congress should be doing more to provide relief for these 100,000 students. I say that not as a point in contention. I say that as part of the dialogue that we have been having between the two sides of the aisle on this committee as we start to assess the situation that these students find themselves in. There is great urgency to this bill for these Pell grant recipients so they can quickly calculate the situation that they are going to be in and the question of how they continue their education in another location.

But I would hope that we would go further quickly, because this only deals with the recipients of Pell grants, and yet we know that we have hundreds of thousands of students that have student loans and student campus-based loans available to them, all of which have been thrown into question.

Today, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and I will introduce the Katrina College Relief Act to provide expansive relief for college students, their families and student borrowers affected by the hurricane. In addition to H.R. 3169, the Katrina College Relief Act would allow affected student borrowers to defer their loans for 6 months so they do not have to make payments and are not charged interest on those loans.

Under current law, student borrowers affected by the disaster may apply for a 3-month forbearance on their college loans. However, loans in forbearance continue to accrue interest, which raises the overall cost of the loan. We should not be forcing students who have been ravaged by Hurricane Katrina to pay more for their college loans.

The Katrina College Relief Act would also allow students and families affected by the hurricane to have their student aid award immediately readjusted to better reflect their financial situation. This is important to tens of thousands of these students, because currently many of these students and their families no longer have the necessary resources to pay for college even after their current Federal student aid is taken into account.

Congress should direct the Secretary of Education to immediately readjust how much these families are expected to pay toward college for their current term and for the next academic year.

We must do everything we can to ensure that 100,000 college students affected by Hurricane Katrina are able to continue their education immediately. While the initial efforts of college alumni and donors to help relocate displaced students should be commended, we must do more. It is not enough to support a bill that says that we care or accept the status quo. We should support efforts to help all of the students affected by the hurricane, not just those who receive the Pell grants.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we would be able to pass this legislation in a very timely fashion, and I would hope the Senate would give its immediate consideration. Then I would also hope that we would move forward to see what we can do to financially alleviate the burdens that this hurricane has placed on the students and on their families; and that we can in a timely fashion, and I understand that the colleges support the effort, recalculate the financial contributions that these families will be able to make. Given the fact that many of the families and students have been devastated in terms of the loss of their homes, their jobs, their places of business, and students who were working have lost their jobs in these areas, the jobs may or may not be available to them.

These students are now having to quickly decide whether or not they can continue their education at an alternative location, in many instances far away from their home, or where their home used to be, and we have to do everything we can so they will be able to resolve that decision in favor of continuing their education, not losing a semester, not losing a year, and certainly not having the cost of their education increased to them by virtue of the fact that they are the victims of this largest national disaster to befall our country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman again for addressing this problem in this very, very timely fashion. I hope that we can work together for these other students who are not the recipients of Pell grants.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this body to offer real relief to college students impacted by the disastrous Hurricane Katrina. Well over 100,000 students at over 30 major institutions and others have been directly impacted by this terrible tragedy, with countless more feeling the aftershocks of the disaster.

I support the bill offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) to offer relief to Pell grant recipients affected by natural disasters and thank him for this introduction. But this bill is not enough; as we all realize, not

only Pell grant recipients were affected by this tragedy.

Thousands of affected students and graduates will be unable to make payments on their Stafford or Perkins loans. Currently, students in repayment who are suffering from economic hardship can go through a lengthy process to defer the accumulation of interest and repayment on their loans. Also they can apply and receive a temporary forbearance on their loans, allowing them to defer payments, but continue the accumulation of interest. We need to cut the red tape by allowing any student impacted by a natural disaster to receive an automatic deferment of both the accumulation of interest and the payments. Graduates already struggling to dig themselves out of the student loan debt, an average of \$17,500, must not be penalized because of this terrible tragedy.

Enrolled students who are currently receiving Federal aid had their financial aid packages calculated based on the Expected Family Contributions, the so-called EFC, which includes parent contributions and contributions of working students. With millions unemployed, including the one in five undergraduates who were working more than 30 hours a week to support themselves, the calculated Expected Family Contribution is no longer realistic.

The Miller-Kildee bill allows those students to have their EFC student aid packages readjusted to reflect the financial changes that family may have suffered. Affected families have limited resources to aid their recovery. The little they have needs to go toward rebuilding their homes and lives. But this should not mean that their children should have to drop out of school. We really need an adjustment in the Expected Family Contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the majority leadership has decided to take up the issue of college students impacted by this tragedy and am pleased with the work of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER). Yet comprehensive relief is necessary for all students with financial hardship.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress will soon consider a more comprehensive package. An extraordinary catastrophe demands an extraordinary solution. Congress must do more.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill to provide assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina whose higher education aspirations have been disrupted as a result of the tragic events of the last 10 days. This bill represents a first small step in our efforts in the weeks and months to come that we hope will make a critical difference for students and families as they work to rebuild their homes and their lives, and hopefully are able to return to higher education.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) for developing this bill and for recognizing the forgotten struggles of students forced to withdraw from college as a result of a natural disaster.

The premise behind this bill is very simple. It says that if a student is forced to withdraw from higher education because of a natural disaster, that student will not have to repay their Pell grant that has already been awarded and perhaps already spent. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) has been developing this legislation for months, in large part because of what he saw in last year's hurricane in Florida and how it impacted his constituents enrolled in higher education and those that had Pell grants.

The Higher Education Act already allows waiver authority for the Secretary of Education to exercise in case of a natural disaster declared by the President. However, that authority exists for student loans and not for Pell grants, a discrepancy that can have a significant impact on disadvantaged college students.

Pell grants serve some of the most disadvantaged students enrolled in higher education. In fiscal year 1999, an estimated nearly 45 percent of dependent Pell grant recipients had total parental income of below \$20,000, and more than 90 percent had total income of less than \$40,000.

Pell grants are a need-based aid that students do not have to pay back. However, when students withdraw from higher education, they may have to return a portion of their Pell grant aid.

□ 1700

Unfortunately, in the case of a natural disaster, there is no mechanism for the Secretary to waive that requirement, which may force students who have already lost their homes and communities to actually pay back the Pell grant funds that they had been awarded.

I am pleased that my committee included this provision in a comprehensive Higher Education Act reform package approved in July. Today, however, we have an opportunity to act quickly to ensure that students in the gulf coast region get the relief they need and they get it soon. This proposal was adopted with bipartisan support in the committee, by a voice vote, during subcommittee markup of our higher education reform package; and I expect similar support today as my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join together to provide relief to college students impacted by this unprecedented natural disaster.

Once again, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER), the bill's sponsor, and urge my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member from California for yielding me this time.

I rise in support of this legislation, and I want to commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) for his introduction of it.

I think all of us recognize the importance of formal education, higher education, training; and that if individuals for whatever the reason are not able to avail themselves of these opportunities, then obviously life for them will be far more difficult.

I think it is also important, though, that we go beyond just the individuals who are recipients of the Pell grant, and I support strongly the legislation that I understand is being introduced later on today by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) that would allow us to provide for the recalculation to take another look at how we assess family income to try to make sure that we maximize the potential of each and every individual in our country to have the greatest possibility of receiving formal education that goes beyond the primary and secondary levels.

So there are many ways to respond to the impact of Katrina, and I think many people are doing so in many places throughout the country, everybody using what it is that they have got to give.

Again, I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) for his insight, for his intuition, for his introduction of this bill, and would urge that we support it and also urge support for the Miller-Kildee legislation that I understand is being introduced later on today.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act.

Hurricane Katrina created a disaster of monumental proportions. First and foremost, our priority should remain saving of lives and delivering aid immediately to those most in need. As long as this crisis continues, we should tap every available resource of the Federal Government to make sure that we are providing relief in every corner of the disaster zone. This relief extends to young Americans who work so very hard and, with the help of Federal assistance, were able to realize their dream of attending college.

This crucial legislation would allow the Secretary to grant waivers to students who were forced from school by a natural disaster such as Katrina. This would waive the requirement for them to pay back Federal Pell grant aid when they withdraw from school. It is hard enough for them to get into college without this disaster throwing up yet another barrier to achieving the dream of a college education.

I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) for introducing this legislation, and I thank the leadership for calling this legislation to the floor so quickly. And I also thank my colleagues on the Committee on Education and the Workforce for supporting this measure when we considered the Higher Education Act in July.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill in a difficult hour. I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

I also would like to say a word about the bill that the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) are introducing today. It is every bit as important that we pass that bill in a timely fashion as it is that we pass the gentleman from Florida's (Mr. KELLER) bill. It is particularly important that we allow families to adjust their expected family contribution.

One of the problems with the financial aid system is that the information that is used to determine eligibility is often a year behind reality. That system works when reality does not change that much from year to year; but when it changes as dramatically as it has for so many people affected by this tragedy, it would place students in a thoroughly disadvantageous position if they were unable to change their financial contribution. So I urge speedy consideration and passage of that bill as well as of the gentleman from Florida's (Mr. KELLER) bill.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I simply want to join in the chorus in support for this bill. It is difficult for us to recognize how far reaching the implications and consequences of Hurricane Katrina have been. And I know, for example, when I mentioned to another individual today that we would be dealing with the Pell grant in the context of the hurricane, this Member did not see any connection whatsoever until I pointed out the consequences.

I am very pleased that we are taking such rapid action in this Chamber to deal with the wide-reaching consequences of the hurricane and recognize that there are so many dimensions of our citizens' lives that have been affected by this. I am pleased at this rapid action. I am grateful that this bill is presented to us. I will certainly support it and vote for it, and I hope the other body will give equal consideration and rapid consideration so that we may service our students.

Let us also remember to continue in prayer for all the victims who have been affected in their lives in so many different ways, and let us continue to work together to ensure that very rapidly we can deal with restoring the Southern States to their positions, their economic position, and, above all, the positions of the families who live there so that they may return to their homes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I just want to thank the gentleman from Florida for introducing this legislation, for bringing it to the floor, and I hope that we can get the Senate to give its timely attention.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense piece of legislation that will make sure our neediest college students will not be forced to prematurely terminate their college education due to Hurricane Katrina or other natural disasters. Without this legislation, thousands of college students will be barred from enrolling in future college classes as a result of a hurricane that they had no control over whatsoever.

Let us join together now in a bipartisan spirit and help these college students by providing the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell grants and who have been adversely impacted by natural disasters. I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3169.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3169, which would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Education to waive requirements for Pell Grant repayments if student withdrawals from institutions of higher education are due to disasters. This bill essentially provides aid to those students who have been displaced as a result of the devastating forces of Hurricane Katrina. In Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama thousands of students are no longer able to attend classes at universities such as Dillard, Xavier, and the University of New Orleans. These universities have historically provided minorities the opportunity to receive a college education.

Fortunately, universities such as Texas Southern, and the University of Houston are taking in displaced students so they can continue their education as we continue to address the many problems facing the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3169, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3650, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3169, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FEDERAL JUDICIARY EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSIONS ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3650.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3650, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 456]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggett
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor

Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Choccola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Duncan

Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Galegry
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley

Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslie
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry

McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascarella
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)

Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—24

Emerson
Ford
Hoekstra
Levin
Maloney
Marchant
McNulty
Melancon
Oliver
Pickering
Reynolds
Sanchez, Loretta
Taylor (MS)
Weiner
Weldon (PA)
Young (AK)

□ 1732

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed on rolcall No. 456. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

PELL GRANT HURRICANE AND DISASTER RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3169, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3169, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 457]

YEAS—412

Abercrombie	Capito	Edwards
Ackerman	Capps	Ehlers
Aderholt	Capuano	Emanuel
Akin	Cardin	Engel
Alexander	Cardoza	English (PA)
Allen	Carmahan	Eshoo
Andrews	Carson	Etheridge
Baca	Carter	Evans
Bachus	Case	Everett
Baird	Castle	Farr
Baldwin	Chabot	Fattah
Barrett (SC)	Chandler	Feeney
Barrow	Chocola	Ferguson
Bartlett (MD)	Clay	Filner
Barton (TX)	Cleaver	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Bass	Clyburn	Flake
Bean	Coble	Foley
Beauprez	Cole (OK)	Forbes
Becerra	Conyers	Fortenberry
Berman	Cooper	Fossella
Berry	Costa	Fox
Biggert	Cramer	Frank (MA)
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (GA)	Crowley	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (NY)	Cubin	Gallely
Bishop (UT)	Cuellar	Garrett (NJ)
Blackburn	Culberson	Gerlach
Blumenauer	Cummings	Gibbons
Blunt	Cunningham	Gilchrest
Boehlert	Davis (AL)	Gillmor
Boehner	Davis (CA)	Gingrey
Bonilla	Davis (FL)	Gohmert
Bonner	Davis (IL)	Gonzalez
Bono	Davis (KY)	Goode
Boozman	Davis (TN)	Goodlatte
Boren	Davis, Jo Ann	Gordon
Boswell	Davis, Tom	Granger
Boucher	Deal (GA)	Graves
Boustany	DeFazio	Green (WI)
Boyd	DeGette	Green, Al
Bradley (NH)	Delahunt	Green, Gene
Brady (PA)	DeLauro	Grijalva
Brown (OH)	DeLay	Gutierrez
Brown (SC)	Dent	Gutknecht
Brown, Corrine	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hall
Brown-Waite,	Diaz-Balart, M.	Harman
Ginny	Dicks	Harris
Burgess	Dingell	Hart
Burton (IN)	Doggett	Hastings (FL)
Calvert	Doolittle	Hastings (WA)
Camp	Doyle	Hayes
Cannon	Drake	Hayworth
Cantor	Duncan	Hefley

Hensarling	McHugh	Ryun (KS)
Herger	McIntyre	Sabo
Herse	McKeon	Salazar
Higgins	McKinney	Sánchez, Linda
Hinche	McMorris	T.
Hinojosa	Meehan	Sanders
Hobson	Meek (FL)	Saxton
Holden	Meeks (NY)	Schakowsky
Holt	Menendez	Schiff
Honda	Mica	Schmidt
Hooley	Michaud	Schwartz (PA)
Hostettler	Millender	Schwarz (MI)
Hoyer	McDonald	Scott (GA)
Hulshof	Miller (FL)	Scott (VA)
Hunter	Miller (MI)	Sensenbrenner
Hyde	Miller (NC)	Serrano
Inglis (SC)	Miller, Gary	Sessions
Inslie	Miller, George	Shadegg
Israel	Mollohan	Shaw
Issa	Moore (KS)	Shays
Istook	Moore (WI)	Sherman
Jackson (IL)	Moran (KS)	Sherwood
Jackson-Lee	Moran (VA)	Shimkus
(TX)	Murphy	Shuster
Jefferson	Murtha	Simmons
Jenkins	Musgrave	Simpson
Jindal	Myrick	Skelton
Johnson (CT)	Nadler	Slaughter
Johnson (IL)	Napolitano	Smith (NJ)
Johnson, E. B.	Neal (MA)	Smith (TX)
Johnson, Sam	Neugebauer	Smith (WA)
Jones (NC)	Ney	Snyder
Jones (OH)	Northup	Sodrel
Kanjorski	Norwood	Solis
Kaptur	Nunes	Souder
Keller	Nussle	Spratt
Kelly	Oberstar	Stark
Kennedy (MN)	Obey	Stearns
Kennedy (RI)	Ortiz	Strickland
Kildee	Osborne	Stupak
Kilpatrick (MI)	Otter	Sullivan
Kind	Owens	Sweeney
King (IA)	Oxley	Tancredo
King (NY)	Pallone	Tanner
Kingston	Pascarell	Tauscher
Kirk	Pastor	Taylor (NC)
Kline	Paul	Terry
Knollenberg	Payne	Thomas
Kolbe	Pearce	Thompson (CA)
Kucinich	Pelosi	Thompson (MS)
Kuhl (NY)	Pence	Thornberry
LaHood	Peterson (MN)	Tiahrt
Langevin	Peterson (PA)	Tiberi
Lantos	Petri	Tierney
Larsen (WA)	Pitts	Towns
Larson (CT)	Platts	Turner
Latham	Poe	Udall (CO)
LaTourette	Pombo	Udall (NM)
Leach	Pomeroy	Upton
Lee	Porter	Van Hollen
Levin	Price (GA)	Velázquez
Lewis (CA)	Price (NC)	Visclosky
Lewis (GA)	Pryce (OH)	Walden (OR)
Lewis (KY)	Putnam	Walsh
Linder	Radanovich	Wamp
Lipinski	Rahall	Wasserman
LoBiondo	Ramstad	Schultz
Lofgren, Zoe	Rangel	Waters
Lowe	Regula	Watson
Lucas	Rehberg	Watt
Lungren, Daniel	Reichert	Waxman
E.	Renzi	Weldon (FL)
Lynch	Reyes	Weldon (PA)
Mack	Reynolds	Weller
Manzullo	Rogers (AL)	Westmoreland
Markey	Rogers (KY)	Wexler
Marshall	Rogers (MI)	Whitfield
Matheson	Rohrabacher	Wicker
Matsui	Ros-Lehtinen	Wilson (NM)
McCarthy	Ross	Wilson (SC)
McCaul (TX)	Rothman	Wolf
McCollum (MN)	Roybal-Allard	Woolsey
McCotter	Royce	Wu
McCrery	Ruppersberger	Wynn
McDermott	Rush	Young (FL)
McGovern	Ryan (OH)	
McHenry	Ryan (WI)	

NOT VOTING—21

Baker	Dreier	Melancon
Berkley	Emerson	Oliver
Brady (TX)	Ford	Pickering
Butterfield	Hoekstra	Sanchez, Loretta
Butter	Maloney	Taylor (MS)
Conaway	Marchant	Weiner
Costello	McNulty	Young (AK)

□ 1747

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1642

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1642.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

WHATEVER WE CAN DO

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in Tennessee we are called “volunteers,” and that is for good reason because when our Nation is in need, our State responds. And such is the case we see this week and over the past several days as those who are the victims, the evacuees, from Hurricane Katrina have needed our help. Our Nation and our State have responded.

This headline in the Williamson AM pretty much says it: “Whatever we can do.” And that is the way the people of Tennessee have responded, opening their churches, opening their homes, opening town halls to help those who are in need of supplies, in need of schooling for children, in need of a place to live, food to eat.

I want to say thank you to all of those volunteers who have risen to the occasion in Tennessee, and I thank the volunteers all across the Nation who have responded to those who have found themselves in need because of the storm that we experienced last week.

HONORING ADOLFO AGUILAR ZINSER

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Adolfo Aguilar Zinser was a scholarly and outspoken Mexican diplomat and politician whose independent struggle for democracy helped end 71 years of single-party rule.

Ambassador Zinser was killed in a traffic accident while driving back from his country home south of Mexico City. He was only 55.

It is my honor to lend my voice to the many admirers of Ambassador Zinser whose untimely death is a tremendous loss for all of us who believe

in the fight for social and economic justice.

A tireless defender of democracy and human rights, Mr. Aguilar Zinser will be remembered as a true patriot, a true fighter for his country, and a friend to so many of us.

In recognition of his outstanding and valuable service to Mexico, I want to offer my deepest sympathies to his family and to his many friends around the world.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

UNCOVER DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House of Representatives under suspension of the rules, that is, a bill with 40 minutes of debate total, no amendments allowed by any Member of the House for any reason, will vote to borrow on behalf of all the American people \$51.8 billion to begin the recovery, rebuilding and continuing the aid and assistance efforts subsequent to the disaster of Hurricane Katrina.

Now, it is good that we are reacting and we are going to begin to fund the incredible needs that will arise and have arisen from this disaster. It is the beginning of a long process, and it is probably only a down payment. But some say that we cannot, as the House of Representatives or the legislative branch, examine the causes of the miserable response that caused unnecessary loss of life while recovery efforts are still ongoing.

Some say that we cannot question the work done by the administration and the appointees in place who failed to act adequately. They say that would be unseemly.

But during World War II, Harry Truman, in a Democratic-controlled legislature, chaired a special committee investigating the procurement scandals of a Democratic administration in the greatest crisis of our history, World War II.

We can do both. We can provide aid and assistance, and we can get at the root causes of unnecessary loss of life and unnecessary disaster. We can do that.

There are a number of lessons to be learned. We need to be able to respond better today or tomorrow. Hurricane season is not over yet. We might have another. Another might follow tragically that same path. That might be an incredible disaster. And we are going to have the same people in place, the same procedures in place. That is not going to be enough.

The terrorists are not going to wait. It has been 4 years since 9/11. We still do not have interoperable, secure communications that were identified as a principal problem on 9/11. The Bush administration zeroed them out in this year's budget, and the Congress has not yet seen fit to restore that money. I hope they will do that in one of these emergency spending bills.

Then there are the cuts at FEMA. The aggregate budget for FEMA during the term of the Bush administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has been reduced. We are not quite sure how much yet because we do not have the final numbers on this bill. I guess with this disaster assistance that will not be the case. But in terms of their preparedness and mitigation, it has been reduced.

The Corps of Engineers has hundreds of critical infrastructure problems, including the levee around New Orleans, underfunded and unfunded. I had a dam in my district that was failing, a flood control dam, with the largest cities in the State downstream. And the Corps of Engineers simply said, We do not have the money. Finally they scrambled around and they found the money. But, unfortunately, they were not able to do that in New Orleans for the Corps budget had been dramatically reduced.

□ 1800

In fact, the Corps' own people predicted that this could happen because of the underfunding of the ongoing maintenance and the needed improvements in the diking system there, but all's well.

Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy said things are on track to privatize Social Security because we are going to borrow so much money for the disaster we are going to need to privatize Social Security. What? The Bush plan for privatization of Social Security requires borrowing more money. That is absurd. Then he says, oh, and the tax cuts are all on track, too. The tax cuts for the wealthiest among us are on track in face of a war and a disaster. Why? Because trickle-down will help the people of New Orleans.

How about Federal investment in the infrastructure that would protect the people of New Orleans and other cities around the United States of America? How about interoperable communications for our first responders across the United States of America? How about more money for disaster mitigation preparedness for FEMA? How about those investments before tax cuts for the wealthiest among us?

But they live on the high ground, and I guess they think they are exempt. They are not exempt. We are all in this together, and there should be some degree of sacrifice and level-headedness downtown. We are going to borrow \$52.8 billion tomorrow, adding to the deficit; and they are proposing more tax cuts for people who earn over \$300,000 a year and estates over \$6 million.

Come on, let us get real. Let us act on behalf of all our people. Let us in-

vest in our country and our people and do a better job against natural disasters and the potential for terrorist attacks. We need some changes. It should be more than 40 minutes of debate, and one or two amendments at least should be allowed.

HIGH FUEL PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that most Members spent time touring their districts in August, and I did as well. The major complaint that I heard was what probably most Members heard. That was concern about high fuel prices. We all know that fuel for automobiles, trucks, and airplanes have simply gone out of sight. One thing that we are not probably quite as aware of as a Nation is what it has done to agriculture, particularly where irrigation is concerned.

I talked to one Member of Congress who does some farming and irrigating. He was telling me that he had one center pivot that was powered by electricity; it cost him \$1,000. He had one center pivot that was powered by either diesel or propane; that was \$4,000. Same pivot, same size, and normally electricity would be higher than diesel or propane. So fuel has really eaten into the farm profits this year, and it is going to make farming very unprofitable for many people.

What has happened? Obviously, one major issue has been that global demand has increased. We realize that China, India, countries like these, have been industrialized, and over the last 4, 5, 6 years have been using much more fuel.

Number two, exploration has been curtailed. A 1998 executive order extended a moratorium on offshore drilling for 10 years. It is assumed that these areas would contain 75 billion barrels of oil and 362 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, but they are off limits. Federal law restricts access to resources in the Rocky Mountains and the Gulf of Mexico. Drilling in ANWR has not been allowed; and so whichever side of the environmental fence you are on, whether you agree or disagree, it certainly has made it more difficult to meet our fuel demands. Natural gas prices have increased 83 percent over the last 3 years, and this will cost our economy roughly \$111 billion, and a lot of this is simply because of a shortage of natural gas, at least that is available to us; and we have a tremendous amount of it in Alaska and other places we are not able to get to.

Number three, refinery capacity has been reduced due to obsolescence. As a refinery gets old and equipment begins to go downhill, rather than being replaced, it simply is retired; and we have lost 30 percent of our refinery capacity since 1976. For the last 30 years,

we have been steadily losing capacity; and this, again, is mostly due to environmental regulation. We have mandated also 13 blends of gasoline. These are called boutique fuels, which add expense and time to fuel refining; and of course, in many cities, like Chicago, you may have to have three or four different fuel blends in a year. Every time you change a blend, you shut down the refinery, you clean the pipes and you start over again; and, again, that adds to expense. Katrina's destruction of refineries has pushed us over the brink. Obviously, just losing 5 or 10 percent, with such a thin margin, has made it somewhat inoperable.

Four, we have increased reliance on foreign oil, which everybody realizes. We are nearly 60 percent dependent on foreign oil at the present time. Much of this is from OPEC. So they can simply have a meeting, tighten the screws and prices go up. This contributes greatly, this dependence on foreign oil, to a \$670 billion annual trade deficit, which this country simply cannot continue to sustain. We have to get more energy-independent, obviously.

I guess fifth, something that is in everybody's mind, is has price gouging occurred? To be honest with you, I do not know. I do not think anybody at this point knows, but I do know this: E85, that is 85 percent ethanol, was \$1.60 in my State of Nebraska 4 weeks ago. Today, it is \$2.75, an increase of \$1.15 in 4 weeks. Katrina did not have anything to do with that because the cost of corn has remained low. All of the ethanol manufacturing is done in the Midwest, and so the hurricane had nothing to do with this issue. I think these are things that have to be looked into, probably by Congress.

The solution eventually, I hope, will be, what we have in our energy bill, will eventually provide relief, ethanol, biodiesel, solar, wind energy, nuclear, hydrogen fuel cells, and I think some additional refinery capacity; but it is all going to take time. This will be a difficult time, and I think Congress probably really needs to do some soul searching and look at some of the regulations we have placed upon ourselves.

KATRINA DISASTER RESPONSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, these last 9 days have been as difficult as any in our Nation's history. The devastation caused by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to the thousands of citizens from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama is, put simply, without precedent in this country.

The images that we have seen, that we continue to see, are unimaginable: people cutting through their rooftops simply to keep their families above the rising flood water; seniors in wheelchairs stuck in 110-degree convention centers and stadiums for days with

plumbing overflowing and no food or drinking water; parents desperately needing for family members to call them and let them know they are safe; unspeakable acts of lawlessness and violence.

We have seen ordinary citizens with shovels burying the dead, not because they knew them, but out of respect, because it was the right thing to do. Just yesterday, The Washington Post ran a picture of a body of a man who had died of seizures outside a New Orleans gas station, his dog lying by his side for 5 days.

So it is unsurprising that countless Americans from across the country have expressed their outrage at the slow Federal response to this tragedy. Indeed, the slow response and tepid leadership cost us many lives on the gulf coast. Thankfully, as we speak, our troops, National Guard, rescue personnel from across the country and ordinary citizens in cities across America are volunteering and giving to take in the homeless, continue the rescue. Heroism is winning out.

Indeed, of all the tragedies that have befallen our country and the gulf coast in the last week, perhaps the saddest is that we knew that this day was coming for New Orleans. Contrary to the President's assertions that this flooding was unexpected, scientists, Federal officials, and others had predicted the potential for a Katrina-like disaster for decades. In 2002, the New Orleans Times-Picayune ran the now-infamous five-part series exploring the vulnerability of the city, specifically addressing the possibility of massive floods drowning residents, destroying homes, releasing toxic chemicals throughout the city. Just days ago, FEMA Director Brown, Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff listened in on electronic briefings given by the staff before Hurricane Katrina had even touched Louisiana and Mississippi. They knew full well of the storm's deadly potential.

Yet they were unprepared to do anything about it. Last year, former director of FEMA James Lee Witt said as much, testifying before a panel I chaired outside of the Congress. He told the committee, and I quote, "Scientists tell us that we are going to be seeing more catastrophic natural disaster events in the 21st century than we have ever seen, more devastating. And yet we have destroyed the one agency that not only responds to those events but also works with State and local governments to do pre-disaster mitigation prevention before that risk could ever happen, to minimize that risk."

He went on to say that there were virtually no communications within FEMA itself and that it no longer had the communications channels or partnerships with State and local governments that it needed. Indeed, he said communications were virtually nonexistent between FEMA headquarters in Washington and its 10 regional offices. It took the submerging of one of

our most culturally vibrant cities to put Director Witt's words to the test.

So this is not about assigning blame at an untimely moment. It is about understanding what this administration has done to FEMA, which is a symbol of its priorities and underlying values. They have cut the heart out of FEMA, as they have cut the heart out of so much of our capacity to address our domestic needs and secure our homeland from terrorist threats, from natural disasters, from global economic changes. The reason why the head of FEMA is so speechless at this moment and why he must go is that he represents an approach that leaves us with our fingers crossed instead of with real vision for tackling the threats before America.

This administration and this Congress' answer to every problem is more tax cuts, mostly for the most privileged. They have left us saddled with bulging deficits, a diminished Social Security trust fund, weakened investments in our own people and communities, and that is why the Federal Government and the agency responsible for emergency relief failed to act and failed to lead.

I start by calling for the resignation of Michael Brown, the director of FEMA, as a statement by the administration and our country that we intend to face these challenges in a wholly new way. It is the only way we can honor the heroism that we are now witnessing in New Orleans, across the gulf coast, and around the country.

I make this request as a Member of the United States Congress and an American, not as a partisan. We need to unite now just as our volunteers, our police, firemen, troops are united in a common effort. That means accepting that we have the responsibility as a community to tackle the rescue and tackle the rebuilding of this part of our country. Those are the values that now govern in this period.

We must make sure that our budget priorities are reordered, not to reward greed but civic virtue. We must rebuild. We must give people the capacity to remake their lives, and it starts by getting this relief effort right. The new appropriations of our resources must enable people to get housing, get their families back on track, repair the levee breaches, pumping out the flood water, giving food and shelter. We must invest in New Orleans, but also in our infrastructure and environment and our people.

That is why America is so special, Mr. Speaker. We have to do so much in this institution, not measured only in dollars and in cents but our character and our compassion that is evident every day as we watch the heroism of the gulf coast. It is a time for leadership and heroism as well.

LANCE ARMSTRONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the news reports: 80-year-old woman gives birth to 300-pound baby; bat child found in Utah cave; Lance Armstrong used performance-enhancing drugs.

Mr. Speaker, these are a few tabloid headlines that have been released recently. They seem a bit outrageous to normal people, especially the last one. As a fellow Texan and great admirer of Lance Armstrong, I stand with him in the face of this mindless, babbling slander.

Using unknown procedures and almost none of the standards outlined by the World Anti-Doping Agency, a newspaper pretends to have proof that in 1999, six years ago no less, Lance Armstrong used a performance-enhancing drug. What a shock, the newspaper is a French one.

This most recent saga is a continuation of an ongoing struggle between Lance Armstrong and the French press. Since 1999 when Lance won the first of his seven consecutive Tour de France races, the French press has accused him of using drugs. The French would line the streets as Lance raced by. They would spit on him and curse and chant, "Dope, dope."

Lance Armstrong's past is fairly well-known. In 1996, Lance Armstrong was diagnosed with testicular cancer, and the condition spread to his abdomen, his lungs and his brain. He was given about a 33 percent chance of living. With the help of modern medicine, the good Lord and an iron will, Lance Armstrong beat cancer, went on to race again, and became arguably the best cyclist in history.

But, Mr. Speaker, the anti-American French press cannot handle this truth so they attack the victor. Once again, they try and project their arrogance and obsessed outlandish sentiment against one of cycling's best.

□ 1815

Cycling in France is like baseball or football is in the United States, and they cannot comprehend how an American, a Texan no less, could dominate their sport.

The most important aspect of Armstrong's success is his ability to train longer and harder than any other man alive. In the words of one racing expert, "Lance pushed physical preparations to new limits." In his book, Lance attributes his training abilities to the fact that he learned how to endure pain during his battle with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, the idea of a perfect athlete is similar to the idea of a perfect storm. You take the most gifted athlete, his ability to combine that with the most dedicated work ethic, and what you have is Lance Armstrong. You see, Lance wants it more than anyone else.

Seven Tour de France crowns and a million dumbfounded French reporters later what you get is this situation today. We have a tremendous athlete falling victim to the accusations of reporters with an obvious case of sour grapes and elitist European snobbery.

Mr. Speaker, I was a felony court judge in Texas for 20 years and a prosecutor for 8. I never lost a jury trial as a prosecutor, so I know what it takes to convict someone. I know about the chain of evidence and due process. And nothing about the most recent of the French allegations against Lance Armstrong is credible. Not a court in the United States or even France would convict him of these atrocious and appalling allegations.

There have been many drug tests done on Lance Armstrong over the years, and all of a sudden, years later, as if out of some obscure cave, a French newspaper reports some old samples from a French lab came back positive. Mr. Speaker, that dog just won't hunt.

Essentially, there is no proof that these mysterious samples used in this test were even Lance Armstrong's. There is no proof they were stored properly and there is no proof the test is even reliable. The chain of evidence is so horrible that nobody can prove that the samples were not switched.

Mr. Speaker, what we have here is simply the latest bombardment of the 7-year smear campaign by the French media. They cannot defeat Lance Armstrong in their race, so they are attempting to bring him down with allegations and junk tabloid journalism. If this latest so-called proof is the best the French can do, I suggest they do what they do best: throw up their hands and surrender. The burden of proof is on the accuser, not the accused, and I would encourage this tabloid to put out the campfire and call in the dogs, because the hunt is over.

Mr. Speaker, what the French need to remember is that Lance Armstrong's life stands for much more than his amazing cycling abilities and winning seven races. He knows there is more to life than the 15,205 miles he cycled in those seven races. Although the Tour de France is known as the world's most grueling test of human endurance, fighting cancer and going on to win the test of life is more remarkable.

As a superior athlete, he has succeeded in inspiring cancer patients around the globe and will continue his fight for years to come, despite absurd accusations as this one. Perhaps Lance Armstrong has the best answer to these absolute absurd allegations. In a 2000 Nike commercial that he produced he made the statement, "Everybody wants to know what I'm on. What I'm on: I'm on a bike busting my butt 6 hours a day. What are you on?"

KATRINA RESPONSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in the past week all Americans, in fact, the whole world, has witnessed the devastation along our gulf coast. As a nation and as a Congress there are three ways to respond to this crisis: rebuilding, restoring, and retrospection.

We must pinpoint the errors made prior to the storm and the flooding; develop an action plan on what needs to be done, ensuring these times of failures do not happen again to Americans; and focus on rebuilding the lives. And we will rebuild those lives. As many tomorrows as those folks along the coast need, every American will dedicate themselves to being there as they regather their lives, regather their loved ones, and regather their property. We will be there every step of the way. That is the most important message they need to know.

Before we do anything, we need to dispense with the myths that we were not warned. Earlier this year, the New Orleans Times-Picayune ran a series of articles on the possibility of a Category 5 hurricane and what would happen to New Orleans.

In December 2004, the Army Corps issued a report saying the levees needed to be raised. According to Newsweek, Senator Breaux from Louisiana personally discussed this issue with the President last year. So let us not kid ourselves. The warnings were there about where the weaknesses existed.

Now, that is as it relates to the hurricane. We also have articles relating to, and reports just yesterday in the Wall Street Journal about, how, in fact, FEMA directors around the country reported up to the head of Homeland Security that, in fact, the way we were structured we could not handle a major crisis in the country, leading to a meeting in August with Director Chertoff because everybody was upset about what was happening to FEMA and the degradation of the operation.

We need to be honest with the American people. They ultimately pay for this government. They need to know, and that is not going to be about pointing fingers or about blaming anybody, because you cannot fix a problem if you do not think you have a problem. And there are a lot of individual actions where people can be proud of people who have served, volunteered, or who have done heroic things beyond the call of duty. That is all good and that is the right thing and that needs to be supported.

But we need to be honest with ourselves, and that does not mean pointing fingers for political gain. If FEMA was not up to snuff, it was not up to snuff. If the director of Homeland Security did not take the type of hands-on approach that was needed and people were concerned internally, we need to deal with that.

Here we had a natural crisis. The Wall Street Journal noted the other

day about how this may be a boon to the terrorists. We need to improve our response to an emergency so this does not happen again to any American, anywhere, any time, because failure when it comes to an emergency is not an option. When lives are at stake, and this was the worst tragedy in America and lives could have been saved, we need to be honest with ourselves and the American people who pay the bills here, because they expect that type of service, and they should, from their government.

Now, pointing fingers and attributing blame does little to put our country back together. On the other hand, acting Pollyanna, as if everything went according to plan, would be dangerous and foolish. Again, you cannot fix a problem if you do not think you have a problem. My colleagues, we have a problem.

In times of crisis like this, the American people rightfully look to their government. This time, the government at all levels failed them. That is unacceptable. People should and will be held accountable. But today our utmost important task and this body's primary task should be putting the people's lives back together and building communities.

Here are four things I think we can do immediately. First, anyone affected by this tragedy should be exempted from the recently enacted bankruptcy laws immediately. Many have lost everything, including their jobs. Expecting them to honor their obligations would be unrealistic and against the values of this country.

Second, we need to make sure that all the children have universal health care and access to education, and we should provide these children and their families universal health care at least minimally for the next 18 months. We should also consider making community health care part of our emergency response on the part of FEMA, like any first responders. We must also make sure they do not miss a day of school by quickly enrolling them in new schools and providing those schools with the types of services they need.

In addition to that, on education, every individual who is going to get either a GED, college education, postgraduate work, or job training should get a \$3,000 voucher for their education.

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST ERNEST DALLAS, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, just before we left at the end of July, I received notice from the Department of Defense about the death of one of my constituents, Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr., in the country of Iraq on July 24. I wanted to take some time this evening to talk about the life of Specialist Ernest Dallas. Many of the remarks that

I am going to make tonight were taken from an article that appeared in the Denton Record Chronicle on July 27, written by Matthew Haag.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate tonight to honor the memory of Specialist Ernest Dallas. He was from my district, the 26th Congressional District of Texas, and he was serving his country during Iraqi Freedom. Again, he died on July 24 with three other soldiers when a roadside bomb exploded next to their Bradley fighting vehicle. Specialist Dallas was assigned as a scout in the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment in Baghdad. He was 21 years old.

Celebrating and recognizing the life of Specialist Dallas is important. He was a graduate of Fred Moore High School, and he enlisted for a 3-year term in the Army in November of 2003 because he wanted to serve his country and he felt he needed the training that he would be provided to meet his future goals, a future that he hoped included a job as a Denton police officer.

Specialist Dallas was a loving family member and he always took time to phone home to get his family caught up on news of what was going on with their unit. He was the first Denton, Texas, resident to die in the conflict in Iraq.

His first love was baseball, his family said. He started playing when he was 9, and he idolized the former Texas Rangers Catcher Ivan (Pudge) Rodriguez. In 2000, he decided to forgo baseball and enrolled in the Denton Police Department's Citizen Youth Academy. He turned out to have another dream. He wanted to be a Denton policeman, said his stepfather, Manuel Sauseda. In the program, Specialist Dallas would ride along with Denton police officers.

As soon as school let out in the afternoon, Specialist Dallas would race home and get ready to go out with the officers. The program was scheduled from 3 p.m. until midnight when the officers' shift was over. But his stepfather said that Specialist Dallas would frequently call at midnight and ask to stay a little longer, and a little longer frequently turned out to be 6 a.m. in the morning. His mother joked that the neighbors must have grown suspicious of the police cars that were constantly stopping by her house and bringing him home. I know what the neighbors thought: that little boy must be in so much trouble, said his mother, Charlene Sauseda.

Specialist Dallas' family said he always wanted to protect the people he loved. So 2 years after 9/11, he enlisted in the Army. He said that the attacks inspired him to enlist. He saw how it affected everybody, his mother said. Enough was enough, said Ernie. He wanted to go over there and take care of things.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Specialist Dallas' family during the August break and they told me of his love of the Police Academy. They told me how he came to love the Police

Academy. Specialist Dallas was sometime earlier prone to leadership that was taking him in the wrong direction. He was brought home one afternoon by a sheriff's deputy in Denton, a gentleman I know well, named Greg Levling, who now works for the Dallas Sheriff's Department.

Apparently, Specialist Dallas was at that time, at 8 years old, a lookout man for someone who had figured out how to get free pinball games on a pinball machine. Specialist Dallas was to watch and tell if anyone was coming. Well, when the sheriff's deputy came around the corner, Specialist Dallas sang out "Here comes somebody." The sheriff brought him home and his mother said that the sheriff's deputy, Mr. Levling, provided some firm direction for the young man; and it was then and there that he got his love for the police force and his wish to, hopefully, one day serve in the military.

Just a few weeks prior to his death, Specialist Dallas sent an engagement ring to his girlfriend.

He was truly a soldier who understood his duty, and he planned for a future beyond the service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, it was my honor to represent Specialist Dallas. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family. On behalf of the United States Congress, I want his family to know that his service and their sacrifice were deeply appreciated and we thank them.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY SPECIALIST TOCCARA GREEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero. Army Specialist Toccara Green, a native of Rosedale, Maryland, served with the 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, New York. While on mission in Al Asad, Iraq, with her transportation company, she was unfortunately killed by the detonation of a roadside bomb.

Specialist Green was the first woman from Maryland killed in combat in Iraq. What we know with certainty is that she made the ultimate sacrifice in service of her country. The lasting lesson about this tragedy arises in part from the fact that Specialist Green was only 23 years old. Her wonderful and promising life was cut too short by far.

Mr. Speaker, for as long as humanity has walked this earth, we have been forced to deal with the terrible devastation of war.

□ 1830

This age-old truth brings little comfort, however, when the loss becomes so personal. Knowing this, I offer my deepest condolences to her family during this very difficult time, and I join the entire Maryland Federal delegation in mourning their loss.

Our prayers go out to a very strong and close family, which includes her

mother and father, Yvonne Green and Detective Garry Green of the Baltimore City Police Department; her brother, who she loved dearly, her "big brother," she called him, Marine Staff Sergeant Garry M. Green, Jr.; her sister-in-law, Kim; her nephew, Jayline; and all the family and friends who have been touched by Toccara's life.

This remarkable young woman was one of Maryland's finest citizens. Public service was in her blood. The Armed Forces seemed like a natural progression for Specialist Green. She spent 4 years in ROTC while attending Forest Park High School in my district in Baltimore. Her dad, a Baltimore City police detective, risks his life for us on the streets of Baltimore every day. Her brother, whose life was an inspiration to Specialist Green, serves in the Marines.

Her mother and father instilled in their children the importance of serving others. Yet, knowing the perils of war, they were apprehensive when their only daughter shared with them her dream of joining the Army. As loving parents, her safety and security was their priority. But Toccara Green's determination was steadfast.

Along with her intense desire to serve, she also shared her father's love of cars, and she transferred that love to her duty in the Army as a motor and transport operator. She was serving her second tour, her second tour of duty in Iraq when she was killed.

Toccara Green loved her country. She wanted to do all that she could to help people and give back to the Nation that had given so much to her.

Yet, as I noted, Mr. Speaker, her death is an all too painful reminder of how deeply the sorrows of war cut into our hearts and burden our souls. Now we will never know what her future would have become. Her family and her friends will never celebrate the milestones and triumphs that each passing year would have brought to her life. They have been deprived of her laughter, her affection and of her love.

Nevertheless, Specialist Green has left with them, and all of us, a legacy that can inspire. I am sure she saw more horror while serving in Iraq than most of us can ever imagine. Yet, even in the face of death and destruction, she had the ability to provide strength and a positive outlook to her weary fellow soldiers. She was an eternal optimist who could find the good in the worst of situations. They called her the unofficial morale officer of her unit.

Toccara Green was following a higher calling, a calling to serve. She rose above the adversity that surrounded her, lifting herself and others by her courage and her unyielding determination to do her part in attempting to make the world a better place.

Toccara Green gave our Nation her very best. She willingly did her job because she was a woman of honor and a courageous soldier. She touched the hearts and lives of all of those who knew her. As Americans, we owe her a

debt of gratitude that we can never repay. We can only do our best to give meaning to her sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the family of Specialist Green for sharing her with the Nation and the world. She is now at rest; and as a Christian who was active in her church, I am sure she is looking down from above saying, It is well, it is well, it is well with my soul.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INSPIRING ACTS OF KINDNESS OCCURRING IN WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share one of the many inspiring stories of personal commitment and sacrifice that have occurred in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In the Eleventh District of Georgia in the town of Marietta, my hometown, a community came together to rescue more than 30 hurricane victims from the Waldo Boys Home in Louisiana.

It started when Marlene Murphy, an employee at InfoMart, a local company in Marietta, made a desperate appeal to her fellow workers. Marlene's sister and brother-in-law were counselors at the Waldo Burton Boys Home in New Orleans. They were stranded, along with many of the residents and staff, after floodwaters engulfed that city.

Without wasting a bit of time, InfoMart employees, led by the company's president, Tammy Cohen, swung into action, taking on the cause as their own. The employees brought food, clothing, and necessities for the stranded boys. They notified the Coast Guard of the situation. Naval Air Station Atlanta's Captain Sean King and other leaders in the community quickly organized a mission to rescue these victims.

InfoMart rented three passenger vans and a truck, and they started that long trip to New Orleans. On the way, there were plenty of reasons to turn back: 2-mile long lines for gas, police barricades, and even cars driving on the wrong side of the interstate.

But these volunteers did not for a second think of themselves or their troubles. They were only focused on rescuing these boys, no matter what; and I am proud to report that their mission was a success. Fifteen boys, aged from 12 months to 15 years, along with 16 staff and family members, were brought back to Marietta, Georgia, where now they were welcomed by a generous community eager to help.

After spending the night in donated rooms at the Marietta Conference Center, the boys are now being transitioned into three homes owned by the YWCA. They have been fed. They have been given fresh clothes and personal necessities. Efforts are being made also to locate other family members, and local businesses and charities are donating the resources needed to get these victims settled.

Mr. Speaker, if I thank all the people who deserve praise for this astonishing and selfless effort, we would be here all night. A gas station in Birmingham donated gas for the trip home, and local restaurants, like Panera Bread and Mellow Mushroom Pizza, are donating food for the boys. InfoMart employees and community members have donated supplies, clothes, and that most important gift of all, their time.

This is a shining example of a community coming together to help another community. In this time of crisis we can draw strength from the knowledge that Americans are helping Americans. It is good to know that the American way is a generous and giving one.

Mr. Speaker, the acts of kindness I have witnessed in Katrina's wake make me proud to be a citizen of this great Nation. Neither waves, nor rain, nor wind, nor blistering heat can crush the American spirit. Wherever nature kicks us down, there are millions of hands waiting to lift us up.

There are many acts of kindness taking place across this Nation, and I ask that you join me in praising the selfless dedication our citizens have shown in opening their wallets, their homes, and, most importantly, their hearts.

ENSURING THAT MEDICAID IS AVAILABLE TO HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina put a human face on hardship. It reminded us that there are Americans who work hard and pay their taxes and play by the rules, yet are still hanging on by a thread. It reminded us how easily that thread can break. In the clearest terms possible, it communicated the value, both tangible and intangible, of government assistance.

Many people who suffered from Katrina have relied on Medicaid, a government health care program for poor families, for families who are working but do not make enough or have health insurance. Yet as we return to Washington this week after surveying the damage from this terrible storm, Republican leaders are pursuing \$10 billion, \$10 billion, in cuts to that Medicaid program, in large part because they are insisting on more tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent of the people of our country.

As we saw the poorest in New Orleans left behind while those who were more affluent were able to escape, this Congress, frankly, is mimicking that same process, that same scenario, where we are giving tax cuts to the wealthiest citizens, while the poorest and the middle class and those who are working hard and playing by the rules and paying their taxes but who cannot afford health care, we are leaving them behind.

Our Nation's leaders must stop blaming the poor for having the same health care needs we all do. Helping the poor secure health care is not a frivolous extravagance; it is an expression of our values as a Nation. Health care is expensive. No one has figured out, especially in this institution, with the power of the drug companies and the influence of the insurance industry, no one here has been willing to find a solution to contain medical costs without stifling medical progress.

Our Nation's leaders must stop pretending that taking health care away from the poor solves that dilemma. They must stop pretending that the poor take advantage of Medicaid, as if enrollees look for excuses to take off work and see the doctor. The Nation's leaders must stop pretending that taking health care away from the poor will not hurt them. It is a convenient theory. It is also patently false.

Hurricane Katrina forced this Nation, if only for a few days, to see through the eyes of Americans living in poverty. It was a grim reminder that Americans from all walks of life can be financially independent one day and in desperate need the next. A natural disaster, a catastrophic illness, a stock market crash, an aging parent, a sick child, that is all it takes.

Katrina reminded us that when Americans witness human suffering, they do everything in their power as a great Nation, as the people, not the government, they do everything in their power to alleviate that suffering.

Medicaid is the Nation's insurer of last resort. It simply is a financing mechanism that, with modest adjustments and sufficient resources, can accommodate the health care needs of the hurricane victims without delay, without red tape. Medicaid serves people who have virtually no resources of their own. In Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, we have seen what that kind of poverty looks like.

Some policymakers have proposed saving money by increasing the cost-sharing burden on Medicare enrollees, people who already ration every dollar to get through their daily lives, to cover their basic necessities.

Medicaid enrollees are not going to respond to increased cost-sharing by forsaking discretionary care. Other obstacles, like transportation costs and hourly wage jobs, already force those choices. Increased cost-sharing will deter timely, necessary health care. That is not right, that is not smart, that is not compassionate. Delays increase the cost of treating illnesses.

Policymakers have also proposed "tailoring" Medicaid coverage to fit the health care needs of different beneficiaries. That is not an efficient way of cutting costs; it is an efficient way of cutting care. It is the wrong decision to make, to make this \$10 billion Medicaid cut.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-217) on the resolution (H. Res. 426) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MINNESOTANS SUPPORT HURRICANE SURVIVORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the Minnesota spirit is alive and well. The Minnesota spirit of compassion and help for people in need has moved countless Minnesotans to step forward to provide relief for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

My district office has literally been overwhelmed with calls from people offering housing, food, clothing, health care, labor, and monetary assistance. Camp Ripley, located in northern Minnesota, is presently welcoming over 3,000 survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Other Minnesota communities are similarly opening their doors.

In our suburban communities, churches and synagogues, civic and service clubs, school groups, the business community and numerous other organizations have answered the call to help disaster survivors. The Minnesota Vikings football team collected 70,000 pounds of clothing, toiletries, and other supplies for Katrina's survivors. As head coach Mike Tice said, this was an example of Americans helping Americans.

In our Lake Minnetonka community, Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners, representing 21 area churches, has a long history of helping people in need. Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners is jump-starting its annual housing fund drive to aid the housing needs of Hurricane Katrina survivors. I will be home this coming Saturday to join Interfaith Outreach &

Community Partners in kicking off a drive to raise \$1.5 million for people in the gulf States who are so devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

□ 1845

John Berg, chairman of the Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners Housing Fund, put it best when he said, "It's simply the right thing to do. We can't look away from the suffering of these people. We need to leverage all the resources and partnerships available to ensure a safe place to call home for both the families and children of our community and the families and children devastated by Katrina. It's a time for faith," concluded Mr. Berg.

Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners, Mr. Speaker, which sponsors the Sleep Out annually to raise funds for homeless people in our community, will also continue to raise funds for local emergency and long-term housing initiatives. Last winter's Sleep Out raised over \$1.3 million from the generous people of our Lake Minnetonka communities to literally, literally, bring in 42 homeless families from the cold and to enable 656 other families with over 800 children to keep a roof overhead.

Mr. Speaker, the people of our communities back home have big hearts, and I know they will come through again for the Hurricane Katrina Housing Relief Fund. A special thanks to all the good people of Minnesota for opening their arms to hurricane survivors who have suffered so greatly. Once again, Mr. Speaker, the people I am proud to represent are doing the Lord's work here on Earth.

SMART SECURITY AND THE KATRINA HURRICANE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Katrina, the Category 4 hurricane that hit the gulf coast last week, leveled nearly everything in its path. It tore apart homes and destroyed entire coastal cities. It has taken the lives of countless hundreds, if not thousands. It will cost an estimated \$150 billion to rebuild and repair the affected region.

Sadly, the Federal Government's response to Katrina was lackluster at best and shamefully negligent at worst. Despite the public's forewarning that there was a knowledge of Katrina's severity, the Bush administration failed to provide adequate Federal aid and hands-on support for the thousands of citizens stuck in the storm's aftermath. A large part of this failure stems directly from the lack of qualified first responders, the thousands of Guardsmen and Reservists who are currently stuck fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is during wholesale natural disasters like these that Americans should be able to rely on our Nation's capable National Guard and Reserve forces.

Unfortunately, it has not worked out that way because the Bush administration has more than 50,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists stationed in Iraq. That amounts to just over 40 percent of the total U.S. military forces there.

The Army's Guard and Reserve units are supposed to be our Nation's emergency force, America's defenders of last resort. Yet the Army's Web site actually defines the Army reserve as being "like a part-time job that enables soldiers to keep their civilian careers while they continue to train near home."

But the President has 50,000 of them fighting in a war very, very far from home, shouldering a disproportionate share of the burden in Iraq. He has them suffering for a war that was supposedly about weapons of mass destruction and then about Saddam's link to al Qaeda and then about bringing democracy to Iraq. But no matter how we slice it, the war in Iraq was never a war of last resort. The emergency units should have remained here at home in case of a real emergency. In fact, all 3,700 of Louisiana's National Guardsmen are currently stationed in Iraq and will not return home to help their devastated State or their own families, for that matter, for another week. Unfortunately, it was only a matter of time before the deployment of thousands of Guardsmen and Reservists to Iraq ended up hurting Americans right here at home.

The city of New Orleans and the rest of the gulf coast has learned that lesson in a painful way, losing family members, loved ones, friends, and pets that could have been saved if their government had provided more human support and a smarter approach to dealing with Katrina's aftermath.

It is my hope that our national overreliance on military solutions during the past 4 years, made painfully clear by the Katrina hurricane, will lead us to a smarter national security strategy in the future. That is why I have introduced SMART Security: a Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism. SMART is based on the belief that we should pursue the military solution only in the most extreme circumstances and after every diplomatic solution has been exhausted. SMART would divert resources for military spending and foreign wars to homeland security and energy independence, from outdated weapons systems to an ambitious development plan for the troubled regions both in the United States and around the world.

Democracy-building, international aid, human rights education, small business development, these are the cures to poverty, to oppression, to hopelessness that plague both the people of Iraq and the survivors in the gulf, particularly in New Orleans. SMART projects protect America by relying on the very best of America, not violence and conquest, but our capacity for global leadership, our belief

in freedom, and our compassion for the vulnerable people here at home and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Katrina's aftermath has given us a firsthand look at what happens when a nation's forces are stretched thin. That is why it is time for us to start bringing our troops home. The Iraqi people need the United States, they need the U.S. National Guard out of Iraq, and no less important, the American people need them here at home where they belong.

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY SECTION 402(a)(3) OF H. CON. RES. 95, THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the funds provided in H.R. 3673 to meet the urgent needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina are designated as emergency requirements for the purposes of section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, 109th Congress. The requirements funded in the bill meet criteria outlined in section 402(c) since they are in response to a situation which poses a direct threat to life and property, is sudden, is urgent and compelling, is unpredictable, and is not permanent in nature. The funds are also essential to the continuing recovery effort.

The devastation that has occurred in New Orleans and around the Gulf Coast as the result of Hurricane Katrina is of monumental proportions. It already is the most costly natural disaster in the Nation's history, and most government natural disaster assistance experts anticipate recovery needs far beyond the \$62.3 billion to be provided by Congress in the first two Hurricane Katrina supplemental measures. The funds in H.R. 3673 will provide urgently needed food, shelter, security, and reconstruction. The funds will help to save lives. Clearly, the funds meet emergency needs and are consistent with the criteria outlined in the budget resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

PAY INEQUITY AND THE WAGE GAP IN THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week we observed Labor Day. We take this important opportunity every year to honor this Nation's workers.

Tonight I want to shed light on one way that this country can really honor a group of workers that make up almost half of this Nation's workforce, and those are our women.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labor estimates that women will account for 55 percent of the increase in total labor-force growth between 2002 and 2012. However, in 2004 women made up 46 percent of the total United States workers. In that same year 68 million women were either working or looking for work.

Women work in every sector of our economy. They are professionals, managers, nurses, salespersons, factory workers, and business owners. More and more women are entering into non-traditional occupations. We are an essential component of the American workforce.

Then why is it that a full-time working woman receives only 73 cents to every dollar received by a man? That figure is worse for women of color. African American women earn 65 cents for every dollar paid to a white male. Hispanic women receive only 53 cents for each dollar earned by a white male. This means that Hispanic women are paid only slightly more than half of what white men earn. Even in jobs where women make up the majority of the workforce, and that is over 70 percent, men still earn close to 20 percent more than the women.

This trend must stop. Anyone would be hard pressed to find statistical evidence proving that women work is less arduous than their male counterparts or that they underperform comparatively. There is no logical explanation why a woman, who is often times still responsible for her children and family, in addition to working full time, should earn less than a male doing the same work.

This is not an issue that is going to go away, Mr. Speaker. Pay inequity is affecting the American family. If women earned the same amount of money as men who work the same hours doing the same job, their families' annual income would increase by \$4,000 per year. This would cut poverty rates in half. Equal pay for equal work will increase women's spending capability. Equal pay for equal work will empower women to plan for their children's education and their own retirement.

Over 40 years have passed since the enactment of the Equal Pay Act. In that time we have only closed the wage gap by one-third of 1 cent per year. Mr.

Speaker, this is unacceptable. We must do more to correct this disparity.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, the whole country continues to be focused on the millions of Americans who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. As we begin to understand the enormity of the situation in the gulf region, it is becoming clear that this is one of the worst natural disasters to ever strike our country. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families grieving the loss of their loved ones and to the survivors who are struggling to cope and to find shelter, food, and medical care in the wake of this terrible disaster.

These are the moments that we realize that we are our brothers' keepers. It is clear that we must all come together to help our fellow citizens. And Americans are donating record amounts of money, time, and supplies to help those who are displaced by the hurricane. The most important thing right now is to make sure that we are saving lives and we are providing the food, shelter, and medical care for the people affected by this tragedy.

As has happened in many other States, four jetliners arrived yesterday in my home State of Illinois with the first group of 540 hurricane evacuees; and Illinois expects to provide housing, food, and medical care for up to 10,000 evacuees.

I am pleased that Congress was called back to Washington last week for a special session to pass the \$10.5 billion in relief funding for the victims of this horrific natural disaster. This funding is only the first step on a long and challenging path to recovery for the entire gulf coast region.

Unfortunately, many of the victims have had to endure not only the natural disaster of Katrina but also the unnatural disaster of the delayed and deeply flawed relief effort. In this time immediately following the disaster, we have an obligation to correct the mistakes in crisis response. We must find answers to basic questions that the American people are asking right now as they watch the aftermath unfolding on their television screens minute by minute and hour by hour. They are saying over and over again to themselves, How could this have happened in the United States of America, the most powerful country on the Earth? How could our country allow people to die without getting them water, food, and medical care?

One thing that is clear is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, must assume a large share of the blame for the woefully inadequate response to the hurricane. Somehow FEMA has lost its way. During the Clinton administration, FEMA

was transformed into an exemplary and effective cabinet-level agency under the leadership of James Lee Witt, a veteran emergency director. Unfortunately, as part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the President and Congress moved FEMA from an independent, cabinet-level rank to a sub-agency of the Department of Homeland Security under the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

It is time for us to return FEMA to its status as a cabinet-level agency that reports directly to the President and establish it once again as an independent agency.

□ 1900

I have signed on to legislation to do this, and I urge my colleagues to quickly and carefully review this bill.

We have important questions to answer about how the Federal Government could have better handled the events that unfolded as a result of this catastrophe. These are serious questions on which we all need to work together. We need to make sure that we are responding quickly not only to those in need today, but also prepare for anything that may happen in the future.

Today, we live under the specter of terrorist attacks, and we may face a situation much worse than we have faced with Katrina. We have to be ready. We have to learn from this catastrophe, from the mistakes and the lack of adequate response, and we have to quickly fix the problems. As we have all too painfully seen, the lives of millions of Americans depend on how we handle this, depend on how FEMA handles these emergencies. So it depends on what we here in Congress do to correct this situation so it never happens again.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SHAMEFUL RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina has torn down the curtain and exposed the dirty secret that divides our Nation like an open wound, and the entire world is watching. If anyone ever doubted that there were two Americas, Hurricane Katrina and our government's shameful response have made the division very clear for all to see.

New Orleans is a city where 67 to 70 percent of its population was black. Nearly 30 percent, one in three, were living below the poverty line. Twenty-one percent of the households earned less than \$10,000 a year. Eighty-four percent of the people living in poverty in New Orleans were black.

So when a disaster came such as this one, the people who had cash in the bank and a car in the garage, they es-

caped, and those who did not were shamefully left to fend for themselves, and the majority were poor and black.

The Bush administration's response to Katrina has been nothing short of shameful, and they must account for their actions. Why did Federal officials ignore predictions of a disastrous flood and hurricane in New Orleans? Why did FEMA turn away assistance, telling Amtrak it did not need to help evacuating survivors, denying the Red Cross access to New Orleans, turning away three trailer trucks from Wal-Mart that were loaded with water, and preventing the Coast Guard from delivering 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel?

How many people died as a result of this delayed response? And why has the FEMA budget been cut since 2003? Why have the last two directors of FEMA been political appointees who had no experience with disaster management?

As one commentator recently said, he said, "Actions have consequences. No one could predict that a hurricane the size of Katrina would hit this year, but the slow Federal response when it did happen was no accident. It was the result of 4 years of deliberate Republican policy and budget choices that favor ideology and partisan loyalty at the expense of operational competence. It is the Bush administration in a nutshell."

Quite frankly, the director of FEMA, Michael Brown, should resign immediately, or he should be fired. And we must help put people's lives back together immediately by providing the health care and the housing and the mental health care and the services and the education, all of the basics that people deserve, who live in the wealthiest country in the world.

The incompetence and the indifference demonstrated by the administration in responding to this tragedy was shocking, but it was not really surprising. Does anyone doubt that if this sort of devastation had taken place in the communities where the small percentage of people who are benefiting from the Bush administration tax cuts live, the response would have been swift and efficient? Can you imagine Bush fund-raisers desperately clinging to their roofs, waiting for days to be rescued?

This indifference to the most vulnerable among us is not isolated to this tragedy; it is part and parcel of a systemic problem that seeks to make a large sector of our population invisible.

Many people viewing the human tragedy left in Katrina's wake could not recognize the images that they were seeing. They thought they were witnessing a tragedy in Somalia or Haiti or the Sudan. They think to themselves, they think, this does not look like the America that I know. Some have even come to refer to the survivors of this catastrophe as refugees, as if the image of the survivors they are seeing are too foreign for them to recognize them as Americans.

The people you see on television are not refugees; they are Americans. They

are Americans. And for some of us, though, let me just say, for some of us, this is an America that we know very well, an America that is often swept under the rug by lawmakers and the media.

The truth is, there are almost 36 million Americans living in poverty in the United States. There are more than 15 million living in extreme poverty.

What does that mean? According to the Census Bureau, it means that a family of three is living on less than \$14,680 a year. They define extreme poverty as half of that. In 2003, the number of children living in poverty, this number grew by a half a million. Since President Bush took office, the number of poor people in America has grown by 17 percent. Is this the real state of this ownership society that we keep hearing about?

It is unacceptable. The Bush administration policies of tax cuts for the wealthy and cutting funding from the programs that provide for economic and domestic security in order to pay for this unnecessary war in Iraq are only making matters worse. That is why we must call for the President to develop a plan to eliminate poverty by 2010.

CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LACK OF TIMELY RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise with indeed a heavy heart, as so many in America do. This is an extraordinary time in our country. My heart goes out to all of those thousands and thousands of people in the gulf area that have lost everything. This is one of our darkest hours, and let us hope some bright light can shine very, very quickly. But in order for that bright light to shine, Mr. Speaker, we must realize the importance of having an investigation quickly.

Let me hurry up and say that this investigation is not a blame game, because we already know where the blame is. It is for those individuals who had the responsibility. It has been a failure of leadership at the national level. Here in Congress, a failure of leadership. At the White House, a failure of leadership. The President, a failure of leadership. Our military, a failure of leadership. And our Homeland Security, a failure of leadership. In FEMA, a failure of leadership. And we must examine that now so that we can prepare quickly for the next disaster, because it is coming, or a terrorist attack. There have been mistakes after mistakes after mistakes. That is why we need a thorough investigation of what went wrong in the Federal response to Katrina, and why there was such a delay. Delay after delay after delay.

We must not try to skirt around and assume and put blame, unrighteous blame, on the city of New Orleans and their police department and mayor, who were victims. They were suffering from the flood. They were suffering from the hurricane. Here is a Category 5 hurricane coming at a city 6 feet below sea level and 30 percent of its population below the poverty level. Where was that plan? Their police departments immediately disseminated. Several of their policemen were killed in the flood. They were not able to do it. And then to hide behind and go to the Governor and say, where is the Governor in this? We cannot fault the Governor for this, nor the mayor. This was a national disaster, and the national leadership failed.

We must move quickly to get an investigation so we can determine what went wrong. The need for this investigation, like I said, is not simply to find blame, but it is to prepare us for future disasters and attacks. We cannot delay in this investigation, because time is of the essence. Questions must be asked and corrections in the system must be made while the timeline of the responses is still fresh in our minds of actually what happened and why, because we do not know how soon the next event will happen.

This was on television, Mr. Speaker, for everyone to see. We cannot run and hide from this one. And I tell my colleagues, in looking at the television, no matter what it is, this is not a Republican problem, it is not a Democratic problem; it is an American problem, and America is expecting us to stand up for America.

There are two essential questions that must be raised and answered. The first one is, why did it take the military so long? Six days. Bodies floating in New Orleans. Flooding up to the rooftops. People trying to get rescued. And on every television station, Fox News, Shepard Smith, my hat is off to him. Tears in his eyes saying, Where is our military? Where are people, Geraldo, cradling a baby, with tears coming down his face. Where is our President? Where is our Congress? Where is our FEMA? Where is our Homeland Security? A failure. We deserve to investigate this quickly, and get answers.

And then the other question, Mr. Speaker, that is on everybody's mind is this one: What role did race and poverty and class play in this?

We cannot hide behind the sensitivities of this. Some of these questions are very unpleasant. They were not created by you or me, but they are there. Those were black and poor people who feel that if those people were white, that would not be happening if they were white and middle class. I am not the only one asking this. African Americans are not the only ones asking this. White people, too, are asking this. We need an investigation to get to the bottom of this particular question.

And then this other question, Mr. Speaker: Why can an administration

who can, without a declaration of war, without authority from Congress, invade another country, topple its government, and then can do it in 24 or 72 hours, but it took them 6 days to respond to sick children and people on ventilators who had passed away. We have to ask the question, Mr. Speaker, because the great tragedy here is not Katrina, it is the tens of thousands of American citizens' lives that were lost because their Federal Government failed them. We owe it to the American people, Mr. Speaker, to quickly put together a commission, just like we did with 9/11, with subpoena power, and get to the bottom of this and fix it so that we can put back together and protect this country.

RELIEF EFFORTS FOR HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what I have seen of what is happening not only in America, but also in my home State of Texas. I think we are all an America, where the tragedy occurred in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama last week, and the human and economic cost is unprecedented in our history. I know our Congress will respond to that.

We pray daily for those who have been affected by this terrible storm, and as we say in southeast Texas, "There but for the grace of God go us" in southeast Texas, because we have had our storms and our floods, and that is why I think we have been so willing to help, particularly in Texas as a whole, our neighbors to the east, mostly Louisiana, but possibly Mississippi and Alabama.

I rise to focus on the relief efforts for these evacuees, thousands of which are in my hometown of Houston, Texas. Getting folks out of harm's way is the first objective, and we then have to provide for them during the many months it takes to recover from this disaster.

□ 1915

Today there are over 30,000 in four mega-shelters in Houston where Texans are being the best friends in need that they can be. The Reliant Astrodome, Reliant Center, Reliant Arena, and George R. Brown Convention Center are full or filling up with evacuees.

The American Red Cross has shelters around the area with an estimated 2,600 displaced persons, including Baytown, Texas. And the people of our area, whether in Baytown or across our county, are responding to this tragedy. Countless people are working long hours to serve, particularly, I know, a Baytown City Council member, Sammy Mahan, and Fire Marshal Bernard Olive who literally formed their own shelter and provided so much assistance to our neighbors.

Thousands more are in hotels and private homes across Texas and in the Houston area. There are about 100 seniors that have just moved into a senior housing facility in our district, and thousands more may end up in similar housing.

Some estimate in the Houston area we have about 100,000 to 150,000 total evacuees, maybe more.

The health care, food, and clothing and other needs of these shelters is and will continue to be enormous for a long time.

The charitable giving by individuals, nonprofits, and businesses has been overwhelming. Like 9/11, we are seeing Americans and Texans at their best.

However, most of the burden for caring for these new residents of the Houston area will fall on already over-burdened local governments. So we are relieved that FEMA is up with five disaster relief centers at some of the shelters coordinating the disaster assistance. But we need a lot more. We had 20 centers during Tropical Storm Allison in 2001.

Unfortunately, we are having a hard time caring for all the needy folks who live in the Houston area alone, so we are going to have to rely on the Federal Government to respond to this national disaster.

To show how steep the costs are, the city of Houston on Monday, Labor Day, met in special council session and put \$10,000 advance cost immediately for evacuee costs. This does not include our Harris County costs. And the amounts are so huge in other jurisdictions, the city has to rely on accountants from the Big Four accounting firms who volunteered to compile these expenses.

I understand our Federal disaster law has never been used to compensate States for such a massive relief operation for citizens who are not from our State.

There appears to be a significant amount of red tape for the money. There are several different ways to flow funds, through Louisiana then to Texas, or Texas may have to bill Louisiana, and then Louisiana gets reimbursed, and Texas may be reimbursed by the Federal Government directly.

In addition, the public health costs alone present a complex situation. And I believe Texas will need a public health emergency declaration just like Louisiana.

Many of these evacuees could already have or be susceptible to infectious diseases that thrive in our cramped conditions. That is why we are trying to move them out of these large facilities to apartments and homes as quickly as we can.

How can Texas afford handling the Medicaid and Medicare costs of Louisiana residents who fled to our State? We cannot even cover our own needy children as we would like to. That is why the Federal Government should pay, at least in an emergency, 100 percent of the Medicaid match in times of

emergency and national disaster. And tonight I am going to introduce legislation for that.

While progress is being made on the housing front, there is much work to be done, and the sooner housing is found, the better off for our health situation.

We need to figure out the best way to do this in an unprecedented situation. This event will be the largest charity and volunteer operation ever by Texans, and I think by our Nation. But we are stepping up to the challenge.

Many Houstonians worked through Labor Day weekend to provide the initial relief for our Louisiana brothers and sisters. Donations are pouring into our churches and charities across my district, our community, and our State.

Our religious community, it is great to see these daily meetings in the city of Houston with our Democratic city of Houston mayor and our county judge is a Republican, being problem solvers and dealing with our faith community. Our Catholic bishop and our Methodist bishop, churches of all walks of life are literally out there every day helping. However, local and State governments cannot be equipped.

Mr. Speaker, I know I have used up my 5 minutes. That is why I would like to put the rest of my statement in the RECORD. And I cannot say too much about being so proud to be a Texan, but also an American.

However, the local and State governments are just not equipped to deal with the scale of the situation. There is a reason that disasters like this are borne on the Federal level.

Therefore, Texas, like Louisiana, will need to be reimbursed for the local government costs of this operation. Otherwise Hurricane Katrina's impact will become ever wider as the costs spread ever outwards.

FEMA has been criticized for its red tape, but on this issue we have a chance to be proactive. Let's devise a financial strategy that keeps aid and relief moving as fast as possible.

If we need a legislative fix, then we need to find out now, rather than later. We will have at least two more supplementals to address the situation.

FEMA'S INEPTITUDE IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue a discussion I began last evening about who is responsible for much of the human destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. The Bush administration has been in charge of relief efforts, and it is clear they have failed the American people. Why were relief efforts so painfully slow to get started and, in fact, FEMA not on the ground after 4 days?

Meanwhile, trying to fill the gap of a failed Federal administration, our

thousands of first responders, volunteers, members of the National Guard and active duty military personnel and religious and committed Americans who are performing exemplary service and deserve the highest praise.

President Truman used to have a sign on his desk that said, "The buck stops here." Truly, the buck in this instance stops with the President of the United States. It is he who appointed the Cabinet and subcabinet level individuals tasked with organizing and implementing the plan to deliver timely relief to those in need, and they failed to do that. Yes, the President holds responsibility. His appointees hold responsibility. Specifically, these include the Director of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, and the Federal Emergency Management Director, Mike Brown, and several other individuals.

And it has been quite painful for me, as a Member of Congress who served on the FEMA Oversight Committee for a number of years, to witness the constant failures of judgment by this team, starting with the President himself when he took office, and importantly, early on in his administration, hollowed out FEMA, taking away its Cabinet status, saying that it should no longer be an independent agency that reported directly to the President, instead rolling it into the gargantuan Department of Homeland Security and tasking that with eliminating terrorism.

FEMA is tucked three levels down in this lumbering massive bureaucracy of 170,000 people which still cannot figure out how to answer a letter.

I voted "no" on that reorganization; was on the losing side when the President tried to pass that through Congress and was successful, and have now joined with my dear colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), to call for the removal of FEMA from the Department of Homeland Security in order to restore it as a fully independent agency headed by an actual professional with direct reporting to the President of the United States.

Now, the first person that the President appointed to head FEMA was his campaign director from Texas who ran the Bush campaign in the year 2000. His name is Joe Albaugh, and he accepted the FEMA position in 2001. And here is what he said back then. He characterized the organization as an oversized entitlement program, and counseled States and cities to rely instead on faith-based organizations like the Salvation Army and the Mennonites Disaster Service. As important as they are, those organizations are not equipped to handle a national disaster. Thank God we have them, but even they know they are not up to the task fully. So the tone was set back in the first Bush administration. And it is instructive to see how the President's appointees have been locked in over at FEMA.

We know that Mr. Chertoff, who heads the Department of Homeland Security, is an attorney. He has spent

more time in courtrooms prosecuting the Mafia than managing large-scale crises like these.

Under him is Michael Brown, the Director of FEMA, who has absolutely no experience in national disasters or emergencies. In the last 10 years before being appointed by President Bush as head of FEMA, he earned about \$100,000 a year in a position with the International Arabian Horse Association, where his job was to ensure that judges followed rules and to investigate allegations of cheating in horse races.

Most frightening is, after he got his position, and when Katrina hit, he waited 5 hours after Katrina actually reached land to officially request help and legal authority to send rescue workers and supplies into the affected regions. What was he doing during those 5 hours, and why was he not more active ahead of time in evacuating people?

As noted by the Center for American Progress, those under Mr. BROWN, his deputies, make him look qualified. The number two at FEMA is Chief of Staff Patrick Rhode, who was an event planner or advance man for the Bush Presidential campaign. He had absolutely no emergency management experience before joining FEMA. And under him, the number three person at FEMA, Deputy Chief of Staff Scott Morris, was a press flak at the Bush campaign. He previously worked for Maverick Media, the firm that produced TV supports for Bush's campaigns.

I say, who holds responsibility? The President of the United States holds responsibility. The buck stops with him.

God bless the people who have suffered and God bless this country.

On CNN, just his second day in Louisiana, Brown placed blame on the victims for not evacuating.

Most frightening, though, is the fact that Mike Brown waited until five hours after Katrina reached land to officially request help and legal authority to send rescue workers supplies into the affected regions. Despite three to four days of constant alarms that Katrina was a Category 5 hurricane poised to strike Louisiana, Brown did practically nothing to prepare for the devastation that was predicted in the event of just such an occurrence.

In spite of the dire warnings of what would happen should a Category 4 or 5 Hurricane strike New Orleans (and the Gulf Coast in General) Mike Brown sat patiently by while the Hurricane delivered 100+ mph winds and a 25-foot storm surge into the region—obliterating towns, killing thousands of Americans and causing what will be hundreds of billions of dollars in damage.

Mike Brown is not the only FEMA official with little to no experience, though. As noted by the Center for American Progress, "Brown's top deputies, however, make him look qualified. The number two at FEMA, Chief of Staff Patrick Rhode, was an event planner ("advance man") for Bush's presidential campaign. He had absolutely no emergency management experience before joining FEMA. The number three at FEMA, Deputy Chief of Staff Scott Morris, was a press flak at

the Bush campaign. He previously worked for Maverick Media, the firm that produced TV spots for Bush's campaigns. Morris also has no emergency management experience. In contrast, the top deputies of Clinton-era FEMA Director James Lee Witt ran regional FEMA offices for at least 3 years before assuming senior positions in Washington.

FEMA spokesperson Natalie Rule said the absence of direct managing emergencies is irrelevant because top managers need "the ability to keep the organization running."

That's all well and good, except for the fact that this Administration cut more than six hundred million dollars last year from funding for local administrators and offices—diverting it to other accounts. Effectively, poor planning and management has created a vacuum of leadership anywhere in this agency that Congress and former President Clinton worked so hard to "fix" in the early to mid-1990's.

As former chief-of-staff at FEMA Jane Bullock said yesterday, "We knew that about 120,000 of the people who needed to be evacuated did not have cars, so we would have to position buses. The buses were not there. We knew that the levees would be under heavy stress and so we should position barges with pumps up the Mississippi in preparation for flooding. This was not done. We knew that the Superdome would be used as a refuge of last resort so we should pre-position food and medical supplies. They were not there. There was a lack of leadership."

[From the New York Post, Sept. 7, 2005]
FEMA FOOL SAT ON HIS HANDS

(By Douglas Simpson, Ted Bridis and Ian Bishop)

The head of FEMA waited a mind-boggling five hours after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf before even contacting his boss about sending personnel to the area—then suggested workers be allowed two days to get to the ravaged region, shocking internal documents reveal.

One stunning Aug. 29 memo—sent from embattled Federal Emergency Management chief Michael Brown to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff—called killer Katrina a "near-catastrophic event," but otherwise lacked any other urgent language underlining the potential magnitude of the disaster.

Brown then politely ended his memo with: "Thank you for your consideration in helping us to meet our responsibilities."

In another note sent later to FEMA workers, Brown said one of their duties would essentially be to make the agency look good. "Convey a positive image of disaster operations to government officials, community organizations and the general public," he wrote.

In Brown's memo to Chertoff, he proposed sending 1,000 Homeland Security workers within 48 hours and then another 2,000 within seven days.

In explaining the two-day period that workers had to arrive in the disaster area, Homeland Security spokesman Russ Knocke said it was to ensure they had adequate training before going down.

The same day Brown wrote his memo to Chertoff, he also urged local fire and rescue departments outside Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi not to send trucks or emergency workers into disaster areas without an explicit request for help from state or local governments.

Brown said it was vital to coordinate fire and rescue efforts.

Several congressmen have already called for Brown's resignation.

In other developments yesterday:

President Bush and Congress pledged separate probes into the feds' response to Katrina.

The airline industry said the government's request for help evacuating storm victims didn't come until late Thursday afternoon—three days after Katrina made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane.

A Long Island congressman ripped into New Orleans officials, who he said did a woefully inadequate job of responding to the hurricane, compared with how New York handled 9/11.

"All New Orleans has to worry about is a hurricane. They don't have to worry about terrorist attacks," Republican Representative Peter King said. "They've seen this coming for 200 years."

As the Army Corps of Engineers battled to pump out flooded New Orleans, Mayor Ray Nagin warned that the receding water will reveal horrors.

"It's going to be awful and it's going to wake the nation up again," he warned.

Late last night, Nagin authorized law enforcement and the military to forcibly evacuate residents who have refused to obey orders to leave.

A refugee from the devastated city attempted suicide aboard a commercial flight bound for Washington, D.C., causing the plane to be diverted.

[From the Financial Times, Sept. 7, 2005]
STAFF EXODUS AND CUTBACKS CURB DISASTER MANAGEMENT

(By Peter G. Gosselin and Alan C. Miller)

While the federal government has spent much of the last 25 years trimming the safety nets it provides to Americans, it has dramatically expanded its promise of protection in one area—disaster.

Since the 1970s Washington has emerged as the insurer of last resort against floods, fires, earthquakes and, after 2001, terrorist attacks. But the government's stumbling response to the storm that devastated America's Gulf coast reveals that the federal agency singularly most responsible for making good on Washington's expanded promise has been hobbled by cutbacks and a bureaucratic downgrading.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) once speedily delivered food, water, shelter and medical care to disaster areas and paid to rebuild damaged roads and schools and get businesses and people back on their feet. Like a commercial insurance company setting safety standards to prevent future problems, it also underwrote efforts to get cities and states to reduce risks ahead of time and plan for action if calamity struck.

But in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, Fema lost its cabinet-level status as it was folded into the giant new Department of Homeland Security. And in recent years it has suffered budget cuts, the elimination or reduction of key programmes and an exodus of experienced staff.

The agency's core budget, which includes disaster preparedness and mitigation, has been cut each year since it was absorbed by the Homeland Security Department in 2003.

The agency's staff has been reduced by 500 positions to 4,735. Among the results, Fema has had to cut one of its three emergency management teams, which are charged with overseeing relief efforts in a disaster.

Three out of every four dollars the agency provides in local preparedness and first-responder grants go to terrorism-related activities, even though a recent Government Accountability Office report quotes local officials as saying what they really need is money to prepare for natural disasters and accidents.

"They've taken emergency management away from the emergency managers," complained Morrie Goodman, who was FEMA's chief spokesman during the Clinton administration.

Michael Chertoff, secretary of homeland security, acknowledged in interviews on Sunday that Washington was insufficiently prepared for the hurricane that laid waste to New Orleans and surrounding areas. But he defended its performance by arguing that the size of the storm was beyond anything his department could have anticipated and that primary responsibility for handling emergencies rested with state and local, not federal, officials.

His remarks, which echoed earlier statements by President George W. Bush, prompted withering rebukes both from former senior FEMA staffers and outside experts. "They can't do that," former agency chief of staff Jane Bullock said of administration efforts to shift responsibility away from Washington. "The moment the president declared a federal disaster, it became a federal responsibility."

THE TRAGEDY OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you all Americans for your prayers, your volunteerism, your most generous financial support, and all of the ways that you attempted to relieve some of the pain of those evacuees who were affected. My prayers continue.

The United States Congress, Members of the United States Congress, should board the plane transportation and go to the gulf, go to Mississippi, go to Louisiana, and all the other affected places. Congress should go, not just watch it on television, because it is very heart-wrenching, and I think we ought to be there in person.

I think we need to understand what happened to the young man whose mother cried out for help. On a Monday they promised her help was coming. On Tuesday they promised her it would be there shortly. On Wednesday it would be there in just a few. On Thursday, help is on the way. On Friday she drowned. Most heart-wrenching story that I have seen.

In my district, Calvary Temple sent nine buses after they got authorized by the American Red Cross to go down. But once they got there, FEMA would not allow them to board people on the buses. And they only allowed 12 people to get on nine buses, and the rest of the buses returned to Indianapolis empty, which is tragic.

We have some of the most sophisticated hospital ships in the whole world that sit right out here at Virginia. It took them 5 days to even get started to go down to the gulf, when it was clear that the help of the ships and the midshipmen and all the medical supplies on board were needed immediately.

We need to immediately reinstitute WPA days, Work Progress Administration days, that worked so well during

the Roosevelt administration and that allowed all of these unemployed people that we have now in the South to begin to rebuild their own cities. And I know that numerous of them would be more than happy to allow the government to pay them while they rebuild their own cities. It is like Charles Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities," the worst of times. But we could augment legislation to make it better times for the people that were so tragically affected. And I encourage Congress to do that.

Mr. Speaker, there have been so many comments made that I was going to make, and I will not replicate them. But in closing, I would like to remind us that every Member of this Congress should get together, not all at the same time, it is too many of them. But day after day after day we need to take a trip to the gulf, meet the people there, help serve the homeless, help serve the hungry, take clothes, our own money used, take clothes, take water, take diapers, take hygiene equipment. We need to personally be involved ourselves. And we need to get on the road right away.

Mr. Speaker, I regretfully rise today to join a growing chorus of American outrage in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster on the Gulf Coast.

My purpose tonight is not to assign blame for this tragedy onto any single official or agency, but to express my shame and the shame of my constituents at the failure of our government to serve its citizens when they needed it most. Mr. Speaker, the American people know that this great Nation can do better. They deserve answers. They deserve results.

When I talk to my constituents I hear their indignation that a city like New Orleans, which lies below sea level and is so obviously vulnerable to hurricanes, was turned down repeatedly in recent years by its Federal Government for assistance in shoring up levees and reinforcing the ailing water pumps which kept the city above ground.

I hear anger that, in a city where with several days' notice of an imminent landfall of the hurricane, in a city where one third of all residents live below the poverty line, the only real option for evacuation was the ownership and deployment of privately owned automobiles.

Mr. Speaker, families living on less than \$9,000 a year don't own cars. And because the hurricane came at the end of the month, low-wage earners living from paycheck to paycheck could not afford passage even if they had them. It was these poor, overwhelmingly African-American residents who were left to die in the thousands. The American public knows this tragedy could have been avoided. They deserve answers. They deserve results.

And now, with as much as 10,000 feared dead and thousands more waiting for housing, food, and other supplies, Americans from across this country who have offered their assistance and opened their cities to displaced citizens from Louisiana and Mississippi are being turned down by FEMA.

Last weekend a caravan of relief supplies and buses organized by local charities in my hometown of Indianapolis arrived in New Orleans to help evacuate the homeless to Indianapolis but was sent home by FEMA officials

who insist that such generosity first pass through exorbitant layers of red tape before reaching citizens in need.

Never before has the great disconnect between the American public and its government been so clear.

The management of this disaster calls into question our readiness to deal with similar emergencies, including future terrorist attacks that may displace citizens and require massive relief efforts. But it also exposes the colossal failures of this Congress. And for that the American public deserves answers. They deserve results.

The business of this body has for too long been dominated by legislation that explicitly benefits the wealthy at the expense of our Nation's poor, such as the bankruptcy bill, the repeal of the estate tax, the President's devastating income tax proposals, and multiple bills shielding corporations from lawsuits, which are often the only means to reverse the injustices inflicted on our forgotten poorest citizens by our richest and most powerful.

Indeed, this Congress and this administration have not dared acknowledge the plight of the poor and less fortunate in this country. Now, finally, we have no choice.

In the wake of this profound tragedy, let us find the strength to face the failures of our past and turn toward policies that aim to protect all our citizens from harm.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, what we are witnessing in Louisiana and in Mississippi right now is the complete meltdown of the Federal Government, and in particular, the Department of Homeland Security. Given that the Federal Government can't even dole out adequate assistance to this one area of the country during this tragedy, how can U.S. citizens feel safe at a time when we are faced with the threat of a terrorist attack on a national level?

What I find truly amazing is that the disaster planners have said that a direct hurricane strike on New Orleans is one of the top 3 catastrophic scenarios facing our Nation. So how is it that the agencies have been so slow to respond to this crisis, claiming to have been caught off guard? The President himself said that the levee breach was not anticipated . . . how can that possibly be true? In addition, while the Superdome has long been considered as the city's main hurricane refuge spot, no supplies were stocked there before the storm hit on Monday. It is simply incomprehensible to me how Federal officials had not deployed equipment and relief supplies before Katrina struck land, or even bothered to mobilize in the region beforehand? This lack of response is outright shameful, an outrage, and an embarrassment!

This is one more example of the complete failure of the Federal Government under the Republican led administration. Since 9/11, the Republican led Congress has given natural disaster preparedness secondary status in the Federal budget, undermining the effectiveness of FEMA, and has cut funding for the Army Corps floor control projects in and around New Orleans, and throughout the Nation.

In the post 9/11 reorganization, FEMA joined 21 other agencies to form the new Homeland Security Department, and was stripped of the Cabinet rank that had allowed it to report directly to the President. Later, in a further department shuffle back in July, FEMA lost its mission of working with State and local governments on preparedness plans even before a disaster hits. FEMA used to be a very powerful organization, with veteran staffers, that is, up until the Bush administration threw everything together into one huge department, ironically labeling it "Homeland Security." What the new department should have been called is the "Department of Insecurity!"

And now, as many here in Washington and around the country have been urging for the agency to have its independence restored, the Republican Congress has just taken away people and money, as well as power and authority from FEMA, doing away with our national security while doling out tax cuts for the rich. This agency, which in the past has given out hundreds of millions of dollars in grants to State and local responders, has now lost the ability to do so, leaving grant giving in the hands of the overextended Homeland Security Department. Moreover, the Bush administration has canceled other FEMA programs, including a Clinton administration-era disaster mitigation effort known as Project Impact. And what's more, at a time in our history when homeland security experts are calling for a greater emphasis on preparing for calamity, Michael Brown, FEMA's current director, has faced years of funding cuts, personnel departures and the downgrading of the department. And of course, worse yet, Michael Brown himself is a mere political appointee, who obtained his current position because of his close friendship with Joe M. Allbaugh, who managed President Bush's 2000 presidential campaign. I think many would agree with me that for a position as important as this one, past experience in emergency management is crucial.

One other terrible decision made previously in the administration was the transferring of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security. Let us remember that the Coast Guard was the first agency to respond to the terrorist attacks on September 11th. Within minutes after the attacks, their ships were guarding our bridges and waterways.

In closing, it is clear that we really need to evaluate our country's ability to handle national disasters. It is simply unacceptable for the Federal Government to wait until there are bodies floating down rivers to begin activating the National Guard! Again, I would have hoped that FEMA would have had a contingency plan in the case of a major hurricane hitting the Gulf Coast. Yet obviously, they did not.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, hurricanes may be natural disasters, but Hurricane Katrina has made it clear to anyone in the world with a television that who lives and who dies, who is left to suffer, who is left without the most basic necessities of life, who is left without medical care as a result of that disaster is very much related to who you are.

We have watched with horror and rapidly growing anger as Katrina came and went and left behind many, overwhelmingly poor, black, old, sick, to drown, to be stranded, to be herded into shelters under filthy, inhuman conditions, to be left in sweltering heat without water and food and to be cut off from health care. Why did it take aid and security so long to arrive?

□ 1930

We have received no answer.

Why were we so unprepared? We have received no answer.

What kind of shelters are planned without stockpiles of water and food as well as basic sanitation, medical personnel, and emergency power? We have received no answer.

Why did we not immediately press into service every able-bodied National Guard member? Why did we not immediately bring into service emergency teams from cities across the country? We have received no answer.

Why have we not moved to use unoccupied military barracks to house families left homeless by the storm? We have received no answer.

Where are the plans and the resources to stabilize the lives of hundreds of thousands with no homes, no jobs, no schools? We have received no answers.

Where are the plans and the resources to rebuild all that has been destroyed and to heal the families and communities left so devastated? We have received no answers.

When will we act to rein in the profiteering by big oil? We have received no answer.

How much can we do to lessen the impact of big storms by restoring natural buffers like wetlands, ending our disinvestment in infrastructure such as levees and acting to halt global warming? We have received no answer.

Ordinary Americans have responded without reservation. They have opened their hearts and their wallets. They have already given hundreds of millions of dollars. They have given of their time and their material possessions. Many have opened their homes.

We thank all of those who have contributed and we urge every household to find some way to join this great patriotic effort. Despite the sometimes heroic efforts of many frontline first responders, America's response to Katrina has been every bit as big a disaster as the storm itself.

It is government, especially the Federal Government, that has failed. "Un-

acceptable" is much too weak a term to describe that response to this disaster. It is time, it is past time, to put America's priorities straight and get them straight today.

I call upon the President to immediately mobilize adequate resources, medical supplies, personnel, security, transportation, and move those who are still in harm's way to safety. We call on the administration to present to Congress an emergency plan and a budget to address the needs of all those left homeless and jobless while their homes and communities are being rebuilt.

I call on the President to initiate an emergency public works program to rebuild America, to restore infrastructure, roads, bridges, water and sewers; and to mesh with private-sector insurance to rebuild every home, every small business.

We have a clear choice. We can use this as an opportunity to offer thousands, especially our young people, a chance to work to learn new skills from construction to nursing, or we can abandon tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands who have been uprooted and displaced, who have lost their material possessions, but each of whom is still a unique and irreplaceable person with untapped resources.

The President indicated that there is no limit to what we will spend in Iraq. I ask, how much will we spend in America?

I thank all of those in my immediate community, from the governor to the mayor to the president of our county board, all elected officials, churches, members of organizations and groups. I am proud to live in Chicago and in Illinois where we have opened our hearts and our wallets, and I simply ask that our Federal Government do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

SWEEP AROUND OUR OWN FRONT DOOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I stand today concerned about what happened on the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina. I hope that apart from

this devastation we can say that Hurricane Katrina has brought to light the atrocities that have been going on for years across our country.

Only yesterday in Cleveland, Ohio, we were notified that 400 evacuees would be coming to Cleveland tomorrow that we were supposed to support. Only 2 hours ago, we learned that they were not coming.

This is a part of that same situation we are talking about, that FEMA does not know what they are doing. What we are concerned about is people being put on a bus, being told, "We are going to take you somewhere," and the people do not even know where they are going. It is part of denying these evacuees dignity, denying them an opportunity to say that we are Americans and we are entitled to the very same democracy that everyone else is entitled to.

Far too long we have neglected the underprivileged of this country, and we are quick to criticize others for not taking care of their own. However, we have all forgotten the poor in our country and we are hoping this will be an opportunity again for this country to address the issue of poverty, the lack of housing, the lack of education, the lack of the ability to create wealth, the lack of opportunity to grow African American and small businesses.

A recent study by the Population Reference Bureau noted that the Orleans Parish, Louisiana, and Harrison County, Mississippi, are counties that are homes to New Orleans and Biloxi and have median incomes that are just above \$32,000, 44 percent below that of the national average. I will not read through all the statistics that I have, but I will say these statistics point out the dilemma that we face as a result of poverty being rampant in our country. It is unacceptable. It is unacceptable.

Now, the President said it was unacceptable what FEMA did, but since saying that he is backing off on his statement about its being unacceptable.

The other thing I need to point out is, people keep saying to those of us who are speaking out that we should not place any blame, that we should be quiet and move forward. But the reality is, you have got to own up to your mistakes before you can correct those mistakes. And the United States Government needs to own up to the mistakes that they made over the past few days with regard to this.

There is a gospel song that says, "Sweep around your own front door," and that is what we need to do in America is sweep around our front doors across this country, the doors that used to exist, the doors that no longer exist.

It is our job, and we are calling upon people across America to say that it is unacceptable, that what we have seen over the past few days from our government is unacceptable, that it is not permissible and that the people of America, the people who have been

devastated by the storm, deserve to have the same kind of support, the same kind of encouragement that all other Americans want.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GOVERNMENT FAILS MOST VULNERABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, this is a very special time in American history. We have experienced one of the greatest catastrophes in the history of this country. We have lost lives, and we have seen this catastrophe mismanaged in ways that most of us could never have imagined.

Mr. Speaker, I was sitting at home watching television, and for 3 days or more, I saw almost 30,000 people in front of the Convention Center in New Orleans waiting for food, waiting for water, waiting for some assistance. They waited and they waited and nothing happened.

I decided to leave Los Angeles and join with some of my friends in New Orleans to see what was going on. After all, I am the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity of the Committee on Financial Services; and when people are homeless in America, particularly 30,000 as a result of a catastrophe, I need to understand what I can do to make sure that those people are housed, that they get some kind of shelter.

So I went to New Orleans and was met by State Senator Cleo Fields, and he and his staff and others, we joined together and we went to the State Police compound, motor vehicle compound where people were gathered. All of our agencies were gathered there. The governor of the State was there. Mr. Chertoff was there, representing Homeland Security. Mr. Michael Brown was there, representing FEMA. The National Guard was represented and on and on and on.

I had an opportunity to speak with the governor. I had an opportunity to speak with Mr. James Lee Witt, who is now advisor to the governor, who was once head of FEMA, to try and find out what was going on and where the breakdown was.

What became very, very clear in my interactions there early on in one of my visits was that there certainly had been a breakdown, that responsibility had not been accepted, assumed, implemented in ways that we expected. And what surprised me more than anything

else was the fact that we have spent a lot of time organizing Homeland Security. We have spent millions of dollars making sure that there are plans in cities and States. We have spent millions of dollars identifying the first responders and their responsibility. But all of the sudden we have a catastrophe that could have been a terrorist attack.

The levee that broke, that was vulnerable and could have been attacked by a terrorist, and this is the operation that was supposed to respond, it had fallen apart. It did not happen. And poor people, the most vulnerable of people, were left without any protection.

By the time that I got there, they had started to move the people to the Louis Armstrong Airport. This had become a staging ground, and the buses were supposed to go there to take them to shelters that had been identified all over the State. And they were supposed to have airlifts that were taking them even farther out of State.

Cleo Fields, a State senator was trying to get them to open England Air Force Base. It is an Air Force base that is right there in the area, Alexandria, Louisiana, that is all boarded up, has 450 dormitories unused. He brought with him three huge buses, and he told the governor and everybody else, Mr. Chertoff and everybody else, that he was going to fill these buses up with people from the Convention Center and people along the highway and people at the airport, and he was going to take them to England Air Force Base and he was going to force them to open it up and let them in and give them some safe and secure place to live until they could get permanent housing.

We put them on the buses and we drove into the Louis Armstrong Airport and it was a sight that I shall never forget in my life. There were thousands of people on the sidewalks, in wheelchairs, people who did not know what their future held. We finally got inside the airport. Thousands of people, people who needed medication, people who needed insulin, there were people who had not been attended to.

Well, we stayed there a few days and we went to a number of shelters up and down the State. We were not only in shelters in Louisiana, the top part of the State, but the bottom line is this, Mr. Speaker, our government failed us, and they failed the most vulnerable people.

We cannot let this get swept under the rug. We have to keep this before the American people. It does not appear that the attitude exists here that we will pay attention in the way we paid attention to 9/11. But we have to make sure that we do not fail the people again and again. We have got to get them out of these temporary shelters. We have got to get them into permanent housing and that is some responsibility that we are going to accept.

□ 1945

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RANGEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening with a heavy heart. What we have witnessed during the past few days in New Orleans and the gulf coast of Mississippi and Alabama is unreal. It is unbelievable.

This did not have to be. We were told by the National Weather Service and by the media that a dangerous storm, a very dangerous storm, was on the way; but something went wrong. Somebody someplace at the highest level of this government fell asleep at the switch.

Our government had time to act, but we failed to move. The strength and the might of the most powerful Nation on Earth, the only remaining superpower, could not defend, could not protect, could not save her people.

Even a mother hen in time of great trouble, in the midst of a mighty wind, would gather her little chick under her wing. Can we do any less?

I do not understand how we can put a man on the Moon, how we can go to the bottom of the ocean, or conduct a war thousands of miles away, yet we cannot save our own citizens here at home.

What happened in New Orleans is an embarrassment and a national disgrace, and it must never ever happen again. Some people are trying to blame local and State officials for this disaster, but as Harry Truman suggested, the buck stops at the top.

What this disaster has showed us is that this Nation is still divided by both race and class. This administration never had an urban policy. It never tried to find a way to help the poor in America.

There were people with very little means who were left out and left behind in New Orleans. They did not have an automobile or an SUV. They could not buy an airplane ticket to go to Dallas or Houston, Chicago, or Atlanta. They were left out and left behind, not just in apartments but waiting in water up to their waists, to their chests, over their heads. They have

been trapped for decades in lives of poverty and neglect.

Do not tell me that our government cannot be responsible. Do not tell me that it is hard to respond. When we get ready to go to war, we do not ask two former Presidents to go pass around a tin cup to raise money. We authorize, we appropriate, and that is what we should do now.

Do not tell me that this Nation cannot respond in a crisis when the safety of the American people is at stake.

In 1957, when there was a crisis in Little Rock, Arkansas, at Central High, President Eisenhower sent in the Federal troops.

In 1961, when there was a crisis during the Freedom Rides, Americans were beaten and brutalized, President Kennedy placed the city of Montgomery under martial law and sent in the National Guard to protect the lives of local citizens.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson did not hesitate. He used his capacity, he used his power as Commander in Chief to call out the Federal troops to protect Americans as they marched from Selma to Montgomery.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are the most powerful Nation on Earth; and we are able, we are able, we have the ability, we have the capacity to respond in a crisis. We have the means. Now we just have to find the will.

A great nation is defined by the methods it uses to defend the dignity of humanity. This hurricane has put us to the test, and it is my hope and my prayer that some good can come out of this very bad situation.

People have lost their lives. Families are broken. Mothers are here. Fathers are there. Children and grandchildren are someplace else. We may never really know how many people died because of this disaster. There are people suffering from dehydration. People cannot get their medicine. They are stranded for days and cannot get food to eat or water to drink. A great Nation, a proud people should be able to do better.

The American people have taken the lead. They have poured out their compassion and come to the aid of their fellow citizens. They have expressed a sense of righteous indignation. They have called us on the telephone. They have e-mailed us. They are demanding action. They want to know why this has happened; and Mr. Speaker, it is the role of their government to respond.

We must deliver Federal support to help rebuild New Orleans, to help rebuild the gulf coast of America. We must deliver Federal support to help rebuild the lives of thousands of American people and help them find their way back home; and if we do anything less, if we fail to act, then I am afraid the spirit of history will not be kind to us.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we got word today that there will be a bipartisan, bicameral investigation into what went wrong in the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina. This is welcome news. A full investigation will help us understand, in detail, how we can improve our disaster response capabilities to prevent this sort of mishandling from ever happening again.

The problem is that an investigation will take months. Meanwhile, it is clear that the Federal Government still does not have its act together on this crisis; and in the meantime, people are dying.

Here are just a few of the recent foul-ups:

In the Gulf of Mexico, the USS Bataan, a Navy hospital ship, has been sitting in the Gulf of Mexico since Hurricane Katrina hit. Yet the Bataan's hundreds of hospital beds are still going empty.

FEMA has requested hundreds of firefighters from around the country to rescue Katrina victims, but for 4 days they have been sitting idle in a hotel at the Atlanta airport and playing cards while studying FEMA history. Said one Pennsylvania firefighter, "On the news every night you hear hurricane victims say, How come everybody forgot us? We didn't forget. We're stuck in Atlanta drinking beer."

On Tuesday, FEMA asked the South Carolina Department of Public Health to scramble on only a half hour of notice to receive 180 injured evacuees from New Orleans. The South Carolina doctors then waited for hours for the evacuees to arrive in Charleston. It turns out that FEMA had sent the evacuees to the wrong Charleston: Charleston, West Virginia, instead of Charleston, South Carolina, where the doctors were waiting.

Now we hear that the director of FEMA, Michael Brown, waited hours after Katrina hit before submitting a plan to send FEMA personnel into action. This despite the fact that the President of the United States had declared a Federal emergency 2 days before Katrina hit.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are eager to accuse anyone who questions the Federal Government's response of "playing politics." But this is not about politics. This is about getting answers as to why our Federal Government cannot protect its citizens. We cannot sit still waiting for hearings when it is clear that Americans are suffering and dying while their government officials learn on the job.

Mr. Speaker, the Director of FEMA, Michael Brown, needs to go and to go now. This is not a political act; it is a humanitarian act. Who knows how

many Americans might still be alive if someone other than Mr. Brown was in charge of FEMA. Mr. Brown should get out of the way so someone with experience can come in and fix this whole thing; and if Mr. Brown does not come to his senses and step aside, the President should remove him immediately.

Some say that we cannot switch leaders in the midst of this relief effort because it would disrupt the efforts already under way. Mr. Speaker, I do not see how our worst enemies could disrupt our efforts much further. It seems the effort will be far more organized if someone other than Mr. Brown were in charge.

One more disturbing trend I have noticed is the effort of administration officials to shift the blame to State and local officials for this scale of disaster. This is unconscionable, and I do not think the American people will really swallow it. The President declared Katrina to be a Federal emergency 2 days before it hit. He claimed responsibility for the emergency response for the Federal Government. Now it is time for him to take responsibility for the Federal Government's colossal failure.

HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am joined this evening by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), my colleague from New Orleans, on a Special Order held by the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss the events of the last few days relative to Hurricane Katrina.

As you know, we have had serious troubles in our part of the country. The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) and myself, who are members of the Congressional Black Caucus, have had our districts pretty much decimated because of Hurricane Katrina, and we have some serious concerns about our government and its response. On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, we want to share those concerns tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield at this point to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON).

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is important the Congressional Black Caucus address these issues tonight because many of the people who are affected by this tragedy are African American and otherwise impoverished or disadvantaged, and they are folks who need to have their concerns given voice tonight.

Many of our Members will talk on different issues. I want to talk about the recovery of that area, of our area, and about an economic recovery pack-

age for New Orleans and the other areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Hundreds of thousands of my constituents have been uprooted from their homes. More than 100,000 businesses have been shuttered, and possibly thousands of lives have been lost to the wrath of Hurricane Katrina.

The extent of the damage, the human toll, property damage and economic loss is unprecedented in our Nation's history.

Of particular significance, a disproportionate share of the damage in my hometown of New Orleans was meted out to parts of our great city that were already extraordinarily economically disadvantaged.

The poverty and economic depression in these areas in no small way were factors in the extraordinary loss of life and property experienced by my constituents.

For that reason, it is critically important at this time to come together to ensure that all areas affected by Hurricane Katrina receive the necessary resources to rebound from what could be an economically devastating blow all across the gulf coast.

Now, we are talking about an economic package of \$40 billion coming up. We just approved \$10 billion a few days ago, but I think it is important to put the right number before the Congress. At this time, we do not know what that number is, but we know it is a lot larger than \$50 billion.

The Wall Street Journal reports today that through their own analysis they have come up with a figure of \$150 to \$200 billion. Today, at a press conference, I called on our Congress and our Nation to set aside some \$225 billion for this tragedy, \$100-plus billion for New Orleans alone.

I believe it is important to talk about a number that is closer to the right number now so that we will not have the rest of the Congress figuring that we have already fixed the problem with 40 or 50 or \$60 billion when we know it is going to be four times that number.

So as the Congress moves on various relief packages, I would like to articulate a few principles and policy proposals I believe should guide our efforts and be included in any relief package.

□ 2000

First, the urban poor in New Orleans were dramatically and disproportionately affected, as I have said, by the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. Therefore, our efforts must include provisions to improve conditions to the point that the magnitude of the damage is never again experienced in our great Nation.

Second, businesses large and small have been shuttered throughout the region, leading to an economic double whammy. Not only is the region cut off from the goods and services provided by these businesses, but the tens of thousands of employees working for these businesses are cut off from their jobs and their paychecks.

Third, the public health effects of Hurricane Katrina are also extraordinary. In response to the health impacts of the hurricane, we must restore health care access, health care quality, health outcomes and the health care worker force because all Americans deserve equal treatment in health care. A proper investment in health care will improve both the health and economic well-being of our region and our country. The legislation we propose ought to address rebuilding the public health infrastructure and ensuring health care coverage. We must, therefore, move to immediately counter these difficult challenges.

On the economic front, I think it is important to propose measures to jump-start the economic recovery throughout the gulf coast, and in the long term to improve the lives of hard-working Americans throughout the region. Because there are a number of Federal tax benefits conditioned on the household living situation of the taxpayer, and in light of the extraordinary displacement of citizens throughout the region, I think we should recommend changes to the Tax Code that ensure that displaced Americans are not disqualified from the tax benefits to which they are otherwise entitled as a result of the hurricane.

Under current law, there are limits on a taxpayer's ability to deduct casualty or disaster losses in ways that would severely affect large numbers of our constituents. Accordingly, I believe we should propose to eliminate any barriers in the Tax Code that would prevent the devastated families from the tax relief to which they are now entitled.

So many of our people who lost their property back home were not home owners; unfortunately, they lived in apartments. They did not have renters insurance or flood insurance. They have lost everything. This has to be taken into account as we go about this.

One of the most extraordinary effects of Hurricane Katrina ever is the unprecedented destruction of housing in New Orleans. One hundred sixty thousand homes in New Orleans alone, and across the area more than 200,000 homes have been affected by this or destroyed by this hurricane. This is going to take some extraordinary action by FEMA and HUD, and some flexibility in the Community Development Block Grant program and the HOME program to get our region back on its feet.

I think we should look at the New Markets Tax Credits program and add \$1 billion in 2006 and another \$1 billion in 2007 to help with the restructuring there.

With our businesses, of course, there are no jobs, and we ought to ensure that we provide businesses throughout the region the tools necessary to reopen and thrive, as well as incentives to provide jobs to the thousands of displaced Americans throughout the region.

On health care, we ought to have a declaration of emergency to trigger

emergency Medicaid provisions, and we ought to allow our States to therefore simplify the application process and eliminate other barriers to enrollment and participation. We should think about a 100 percent Federal Medicaid match to States directly affected by Hurricane Katrina or States receiving evacuees, and elimination of residency requirements as people are being scattered throughout the country.

On Medicare, we ought to waive the late enrollment penalties for affected residents to sign up for the new prescription drug benefit from October of this year to some other time, if they become newly eligible. We ought to delay transition of the affected dual-eligible to the Medicare program. And we ought to create a health safety net for all people affected by Katrina.

With regard to the health care workforce, we have to redirect our resources there to make sure we have people available to do the work. We ought to establish health empowerment zones, for instance, and freeze budget cuts for safety net and public health programs for two. And, finally, we ought to be concerned about the mental health of our people, because displacement is a terrible mental health issue, and we ought to make sure services are delivered there in the proper way.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my colleague, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for providing an opportunity for us to speak this evening. I am speaking as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and we are here to show our support for our three Members whose districts have been severely and adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina, the gentleman from New Orleans, Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), who represents part of that district, and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS), who represents part of that State. We are here to support their efforts on behalf of their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, it is coincidental that those constituents are disproportionately African American. I say it is coincidental because I believe this catastrophe, this hurricane, was certainly not directed at African American people. But the reality is that poor people, disproportionately African American people who were poor, were not able to get away from the disaster. When they were told to leave New Orleans, in particular, they did not have the financial means to escape the disaster.

This is an issue that the Congressional Black Caucus has been talking about not only in the context of a hurricane, but in the context of an agenda which describes disparities in every area of our lives. It is an agenda that we have been talking about the entire

year. We did not just start talking about it in the context of a hurricane.

Disproportionately, African Americans are poor. And if this same catastrophe had happened in any American community in which black people and white people were living, disproportionately African Americans would have been left behind, subject to the whims of nature and the catastrophe.

So we are here to express our support for our Members and their constituents, and we heartily endorse the proposals that have been outlined in general terms by our friend, the gentleman from New Orleans (Mr. JEFFERSON). We endorse them and we encourage our colleagues to embrace them.

Our Nation is at a crossroads, and we must respond. We must respond to these constituents in the same way that we would respond to other Americans, rich, middle class and otherwise, who were subjected to this kind of disaster. I encourage my colleagues to pay attention to what is going on in this area and to devote our resources and our energy, both private-sector and governmental, to addressing this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I will yield back to my colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), and again applaud him for providing this opportunity for Members of the Congressional Black Caucus to address this issue.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Mississippi for yielding to me and for his leadership during this difficult time. We are here to stand with you and to offer assistance to you.

And to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), whose district has been so devastated, we are here to say that we support you wholeheartedly.

I want to thank the millions of Americans, individual Americans and families, who have brought into their own homes, into their churches and into their schools many people who find themselves homeless. I want to applaud the American citizenry for stepping up at a time when our Federal Government did not.

In our own State of Michigan, we have received evacuees. The governor advised today that no more evacuees would be coming to Michigan, but I am here to say, Madam Governor, that they are still coming to Detroit. We have 300 families in Detroit right now and we are housing them, we are clothing them, we are feeding them, and the medical community in Detroit has come together under the leadership of Mayor Kilpatrick.

I want to pledge to my colleagues, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) that we will continue to do that. We are

here to serve, to represent, and to take care of the least among us. And so we will do that, my congressional brothers. And I want the governor of the State of Michigan to know that we appreciate her, but we will take care of these people as they come to our doors from this grief-stricken region.

I want to applaud Secretary Alphonso Jackson and HUD, who has been working with our mayor to make sure that we have the facilities available. Our private community has stepped forward, our hotel industry, our manufacturers of food, and our health care industry. That is how we are able to do what we are doing in the city of Detroit, and we will continue to do so.

We need the Federal Government to cut the red tape. There is too much red tape here. We have an emergency. We have put out \$10.5 billion, which has been passed by both Houses of Congress. I am told today that Halliburton got \$500 million of that already in a no-bid contract to help in New Orleans, to relieve the streets of its water. I wonder why we could not find others. At the same time, I have families who have been stopped from getting the food and nutrition that they need.

FEMA must develop a plan. I, too, call for the firing of Mr. Brown, the FEMA director with no emergency management experience, as well as his deputy, a friend of the President's, with no emergency management experience. We need real professionals in this time of need. The CBC stands ready, our Congressional Black Caucus, to do what we must do, and we will be visiting the stricken area soon now.

I was in an appropriation hearing today where we discussed the tens of billions of dollars, over \$250 billion, that is being spent in the reconstruction of Iraq. Must we be there? Maybe. But should we take care of America's people? We must. So I call upon this Congress and the President to work together to make sure that American people are taken care of.

I witnessed this morning on a morning show a family with the last name of Allen, a wife whose husband works for the housing department in Louisiana, who stayed in Louisiana to help the people who were left there. The wife and one of the sons were evacuated. This family has a son fighting for this country in Iraq.

So, you see, they are American citizens, many who have been evacuated because of a national disaster. We owe them. They pay taxes. The seniors, the frail, they built this country. We owe them.

Let us rise up, America. This Congress can do better and we will do better, because we cannot let them down.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Chicago, Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for yielding to me, and I want him to know that he and the gentleman from Louisiana

(Mr. JEFFERSON), and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) are an inspiration to many of us. Your courage, your commitment, and the leadership that you have displayed over these trying times, not only to those who reside in your districts but also to the American people in general have not gone unnoticed.

The Bible says, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan." Mr. Speaker, when I think of the devastating effects of the failed rapid response of the Federal Government to Hurricane Katrina, I cannot help but wonder about the value of some life, some human life in this country, particularly the lives of the poor, the powerless, and the black.

Along with the rest of the world, I have been outraged by the less-than-rapid response, of the inaction, of the lack of attention and the lack of providing aid to the thousands of individuals who were left to die and fend for themselves in the aftermath of the worst natural disaster in American history. Those who did not die were subject to the most dehumanizing conditions, the demoralizing squalor in the Superdome and other relief centers in New Orleans has been compared to the conditions in the hulls of slave cargo ships.

□ 1815

I might add, this is not a far-fetched and extreme exaggeration.

Hurricane Katrina is an example of how the Federal Government failed. It is an example of a complete breakdown when responding to those in need of critical help. In times of national crisis, the cries of mothers, fathers and families from Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama went unheard.

I serve on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and today our committee held a hearing on price gouging at America's pumps. But my immediate concerns are on the price of human suffering being paid by the most vulnerable in our society.

New Orleans is going through a full-blown public health crisis, Mississippi is going through a full-blown public health crisis, and so is Alabama; and they are all suffering from the debilitating environmental conditions caused by Hurricane Katrina and by human malfeasance.

In addition to examining the incompetence and indifference of FEMA, the National Guard, and, I might add, the American Red Cross in their responding to this catastrophe, this Congress needs to address immediate and emergency concerns, including the purification of the drinking water and the abatement of dreaded diseases such as e-coli, hepatitis A, cholera, West Nile and other mosquito and waterborne diseases. Clearly, the public health concerns of this Nation and particularly the Gulf Coast region are of paramount importance.

I might also quickly note that we should sharply increase funding for the

LIHEAP program, so that we can address the rising cost of heating oil during the upcoming winter months.

Lastly, we must examine and address the psychological scars that people have suffered from this terrible tragedy. We cannot underestimate the wounds that lie deeply in the psychology of the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The week-long conditions under which many of them toiled are unimaginable.

In this regard, we must especially be sensitive to the psychological needs of the children. Children may have suffered trauma that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. It is important that this Congress provide comprehensive mental health services to the children and to all of the evacuees.

It is now time for this Congress to acknowledge that there is widespread poverty in this Nation. It is now time for this Congress to also acknowledge the role that poverty played in the paucity of the Federal response during this national crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I also join with my colleagues in saying down with Michael Brown. Down with Michael Brown.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS), another Member of this body that was also affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for yielding. I certainly thank all of my colleagues in this Chamber who have expressed solicitude to me. But, frankly, that solicitude is better spent on my colleagues from Mississippi and Louisiana. My State of Alabama was gratuitously spared virtually all of this damage. There are certainly people in my State who lost power, there are people in my State who were hurt. But God did not create all suffering on the same scale, and I know the difference between what has happened in my State and what has happened to my colleagues.

I am very proud of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), I am very proud of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) for all of the work that they do in this Congress, but particularly for their fortitude in the last week, because, Mr. Speaker, we have been able to sit at these things from a distance. We have been able to talk as compassionate people about these losses.

The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) have the very hard work of going into their communities and talking to people who are in pain and saying, "I will use my power to try to help you," and seeing the tears in response. So it is they who very much deserve our solicitude tonight, and I am proud to serve with them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make three points that I think are related. The first one is this:

So many of the people who died, and we understand that the numbers of the

dead will likely exceed 10,000, the largest single disaster in American history, so many of the ones who died had lives that do not put them on the front page of the newspaper. They had lives that were relatively anonymous. They were hard-working people, trying to make it through their lot in life, and all of a sudden they were cut down in blameless circumstances.

The challenge of leadership though is to give an honor and a place to those who die in tragic circumstances. The challenge of real leadership is to lift the anonymity and to put an honor on the table.

One of the things that I wish we would see in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, is for the President of the United States to do what he did the last time our country was seared, to come and gather the House and Senate together in this body, to address the Nation and the Congress, and to paint a vision of how we can do better next time and a vision of how we can rebuild these people.

I would love to see the President go to the National Cathedral, a place he went 4 days after September 11, because when he went to the National Cathedral, he gave an honor to those victims and lifted them up to a certain place of honor. I would love to see that done for the people in your State of Mississippi and the people in the great State of Louisiana.

We cannot let the anonymity that lingered over the lives of these people mask the honor of their death, because the honor of their death is this: They were innocent, hard-working Americans who lost their lives in part because of nature, but in part because of the errors of our government. And it is that second point that I want to turn to tonight.

The country needs this President to admit that his government failed; the country needs this President to come here and say that the standard that was set by FEMA last week is one that was unacceptable for the people of Mississippi and Louisiana; and the country needs this President to name this as the disaster that it was. I cannot say it nearly as eloquently as our friend and colleague the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), but our country is embarrassed when we have power and do not use it intelligently and effectively. Our country is embarrassed when we have the means, the capacity and the ability to know what was happening last week, and still fail to adequately respond to it.

I have heard some of my friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle say that they were pleased and satisfied and thankful for the job that happened last week, and I would simply differ with them in this one sense: Can we truly be pleased with the lack of response, the constant underestimation, the constant miscalculation? Because if we are pleased with that and we consider that to be good work, our standard is far too low.

The final point that I want to make, I say to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), is one that perhaps should be more obvious to us. The fissures that already exist in our society become even more painful and more acute when there are stresses in our society. Last week, as so many people in this Chamber have said so well, the people who were left in the Superdome, the people not evacuated in time, so many are the people we often do not see. And we owe this next quote to Mr. Brown, the head of FEMA. Mr. Brown said that we learned that there were people that we did not even know existed.

Mr. BROWN did not mean to be profound when he said that, but he was unintentionally so, because we did learn and his administration did learn last week that there are people that they did not know existed, who live in the cracks and fissures in our society. And that ought to pain us.

The last point that I want to make, and it is the point I would hang over this Chamber as we think over this next several weeks: We owe people in this country a better place than the margins of life. There are people who, because of their own faults and their own demerits, end up in a particular place. We understand that. We know that. The Bible tells us that. But we ought to be strong enough and bold enough as a country to not let people who are trying to live their lives fall into the margins because we do not care enough to build a net around them. The absence of a net in New Orleans, the absence of a net in Mississippi, the absence of a safety net in much of the South, was laid bare last week, and we ought to be moved by that.

I will not cheapen this tragedy by saying there is a silver lining in it. Too many people died for that. But I will say that I hope that we draw some inspiration. I hope that as we go about fashioning a strategy for relief, that we fashion a strategy for relief that can lift up the weakest of these people and the least of them in an economic sense.

But I hope as we move past Hurricane Katrina, and, frankly most of us in this Chamber will find a way to do that, it is the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) who will continue to you live with it, but for a lot of the people in this Chamber, we will be able to move past this. We will be on to the next crisis of the month or the next political cause of the month.

But I hope as we move on, we carry this lesson with us, we carry this notion that if we are a just country, we cannot be a country where being left behind and being left out has the consequences that happened in the gentlemen's State of Mississippi and in Louisiana last week. If we are to be the country that we say we are, we have to do better by all of our people.

The final point before I yield back my time, I turn once again to the

President and his leadership. This President would not serve himself or our country well if this is turned into an attack on the mayor of New Orleans or the governor of Louisiana. This is not the time to make false comparisons and to wonder whether the governor and the mayor did not do this or did not do that, because there is something we ought to understand: The governor and the mayor lived in the midst of a crisis.

The people who sat comfortably in this city last week were removed from that crisis. They were in a position and had the level head to do better, and they came up with the sea of incompetence that we saw. So how dare we look at the mayor and the governor sitting among their people in the midst of all of this and blame them, when people sat in this city far removed from the danger and could not do better?

Mr. Speaker, again I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for his leadership, and I hope that his constituents, and know that his constituents, appreciate it. I thank the gentleman for his work as the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security, because it ought to be said, What is the measure of homeland security if we cannot find a way to secure our own people in the midst of danger?

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt sympathy to all of the victims of Hurricane Katrina and their families. Our thoughts and prayers remain with them as they cope with the aftermath of this enormous tragedy. We stand in solidarity with our brothers, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS).

My home State of New Jersey has responded by deploying police officers, firefighters and decontamination personnel from around our State to aid relief efforts in the City of New Orleans. I commend Governor Codey of New Jersey for his leadership in responding to the needs of those affected by the catastrophic conditions in New Orleans and the surrounding areas.

In addition, Continental Airlines, which has a hub in my home city of Newark, is participating in Operation Air Care to provide emergency airlift to more than 25,000 New Orleans residents stranded by Hurricane Katrina. I appreciate the efforts.

Many of our local churches in my congressional district have taken the lead in organizing relief efforts to collect clothing, food and money to help hurricane victims. Over the past week-end I met with Reverend Raymond Jefferson of Metropolitan Baptist Church, originally from Louisiana, who is orga-

nizing a comprehensive statewide relief. Just last night he convened a meeting of concerned community leaders and is working tirelessly to bring refugee relief to the hurricane victims.

My office received a call from a family of 11, who needed assistance, coming up from Louisiana, and we were able to locate housing for them. Then we went to Reverend William Howard's church, Bethany Baptist Church in Newark, to help provide additional social services, including medical attention, preschool for the youngsters, as well as schooling for high school and college students, and Social Security for the elderly. It is really a complicated system, and everybody needs to be involved.

While Reverend Howard and I were meeting with the family at the church, we received a call that the grandfather of the family who had been missing was located at a hospital in New Orleans. This was a great feeling.

Reverend Joe Carter of New Hope Baptist Church started a fund-raising drive on Sunday and will meet with the pastor from New Orleans tonight in Atlanta at a meeting of the National Baptist Convention. So everyone is doing their own thing, collectively.

Let me conclude by saying, unfortunately, much of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina could have been mitigated if President Bush and his director of Federal Emergency Management Agency had shown real leadership by responding swiftly and completely to the warning before Katrina hit the gulf coast. Instead, they seem to be in denial about their woeful and inadequate response, even to the point of blaming the victims.

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FEMA Director Michael Brown coldly made the statement that those behind had failed to heed the advance warnings and thus were basically responsible for their own misfortune. It apparently never occurred to him that not everyone had the resources to drive or fly out of the city before the hurricane struck.

Today's Washington Post reported that offers of assistance from other countries were ignored for days after the tragedy. An executive with a telecommunications company based in the Netherlands expressed his frustration with these words: "FEMA? That was a lost case. We got zero help. We lost one week trying to get things so that we could move forward."

I serve as one of two congressional delegates to the United Nations, and it is going to be embarrassing for me next week to be with our allies from around the world who offered assistance which was turned down.

Let me conclude by saying I received a call from Rome today, and they said they were shocked at the abject poverty in the United States. They did not realize that there was so much poverty in this country. And even The Washington Post referred to people as refugees. By international law, if they

looked it up, one cannot be a refugee in one's own country. Disgraceful, wrong, and that is what the W in George W. stands for. Wrong, wrong, wrong.

Mr. Speaker, we often hear it said from this administration that this government should be run like a private business. I would like to ask the Members what business would ever think about retaining an employee who performed as dismally as Mr. Brown did, completely failing to fulfill his responsibilities at a time of crisis?

I was also shocked to hear statements made by others that many of the victims are better off in the shelters in Houston because they were underprivileged anyway. It was said by a very prominent American. Unbelievable. To suggest that it does not matter if poor people lose the roof over their heads and all of their possessions, lose loved ones and have their families separated seems to me to be the height of insensitivity on the part of the overprivileged.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will have a thorough investigation into the failings of our government to respond to this cataclysmic event and the consequences it had on all victims and disproportionately on victims and people of color. We are the United States of America, and we certainly can do better.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, my prayers and my heart go out to those who have been displaced and the families that have been disrupted by this devastation. I stand firmly with my brothers, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) and, most importantly, New Orleans; the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON); and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) while they meet the challenges ahead and while they grapple with this devastation.

Hurricane Katrina is turning out to be the worst human catastrophe in America's history, far surpassing Hurricane Camille and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake in its destructive and deadly impact.

At this time I would like to thank all Californians for their generosity and outpouring of donations, food, clothing, and opening their homes to the families and to our families of this gulf coast area. My district has a hurricane disaster relief effort, and we are getting big-rig trucks that are taking all of this to those ravaged areas, and we thank my church that raised over \$100,000 on Sunday, Second Baptist Church, Dr. William Epps, in providing donations to the region.

The flooding and physical destruction of New Orleans, a truly historic American city, coupled with the complete destruction of families, homes, businesses, roads, and bridges along this 120 miles of Louisiana and Mis-

issippi coastline presents a humanitarian challenge of unprecedented proportions with consequences that will be felt for years to come by those who lost loved ones, jobs, homes, and any sense of comfort and security. And the reality of our government's failure thus far to deal adequately with the tragedy that has occurred in New Orleans and along the gulf coast deepens each day.

While Hurricane Katrina could not have been prevented, it is now clear that the flooding of New Orleans that followed Katrina would not have been so devastating if the levees had been rebuilt and the wetlands had not been taken away.

For years the Federal Government had not provided the critical funding that would have made possible the building of sound infrastructure that would have protected New Orleans from this assault that has come to the great people of this great city.

Our figure says it all. It would have cost only \$2.5 billion to build storm defenses around New Orleans capable of resisting a Category 5 hurricane. Katrina was an upper Category 4 hurricane. Nothing about New Orleans in this situation is new. Its vulnerability has been known for decades. This government knew that, yet nothing was done to protect the city and the surrounding communities.

FEMA, supposedly given a high priority for funding in the wake of 9/11, was not visible in the first days following this hurricane. We saw and heard evidence of the lifesaving work of countless private organizations like the Red Cross and the Salvation Army; yet this FEMA was not seen or heard of. In other words, we did not know what they were doing.

And in the days after Katrina hit the gulf coast, we have now learned that in many cases, FEMA was actually an impediment to the ongoing rescue and recovery efforts attempted by State and local officials. I am certain that in the months ahead we will see that FEMA's slow response to this terrible disaster needlessly resulted in the loss of hundreds, maybe thousands, of additional deaths and injuries. Why did this happen in the most powerful country in this world? This question begs for real answers.

Finally, there is a much more profound American problem that this disaster has illuminated, and that is the fact that the victims of the flooding in New Orleans have been, for the most part, African Americans and poor. The lowest lying areas of New Orleans, the most vulnerable to flooding, were inhabited by the city's most vulnerable people. Tragically, these victims, many of whom are children, the elderly, and the disabled, could have been spared much of the pain and massive destruction that was caused by Katrina if only their safety had been our government's priority. Instead, they were essentially left to fend for themselves with even more tragic consequences.

How could this happen, Mr. Speaker, in the world's most powerful and

wealthiest country? Clearly, it was not due to a lack of resources; but, rather, it was the result of our Homeland Security and this administration whose priorities did not include assisting the most vulnerable and needy of our society.

One of the first questions that we will need answers for after the rescue and recovery efforts are completed is what will happen to New Orleans? And these questions should be answered by Congress and the administration.

What will happen to New Orleans?

I will say this: we must have a plan for rebuilding New Orleans and the surrounding gulf coast communities, and we must have it soon. The people of New Orleans and the surrounding gulf coast communities cannot wait too long for solutions to this immediate crisis they now face. Mr. Speaker, we must act now. The people of New Orleans and the people of this country are waiting.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in extending my sympathy and that of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands to the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama who have suffered great losses and continue to suffer from the impact of Hurricane Katrina on their lives. They are very fortunate to be represented by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS).

I am proud to say that we, who know the fury of these storms, have many who are working in the affected and host communities, that our hotel association and countless individuals and businesses have contributed close to \$200,000 and that number continues to climb, that our National Guard sent many of our able troops to this vital effort, and our university has opened its doors to displaced students.

After 9/11, it was clear that we needed to become not just a stronger America but a better America, one where everyone was treated with dignity, fairness, justice, and compassion. Our leaders, though, urged us to go back to normal, and that was clearly not good enough. Despite the generosity of many good people, we have witnessed what has become normal for far too many in this country: for the poor, the rural, and people of color.

What happened in Alabama, Mississippi, and especially in Louisiana, the extent to which we have not yet seen, brings the issue of health and socioeconomic disparities into stark focus. Based on what is estimated, Katrina's toll will add more than 12,000 preventable, premature deaths to the

close to 100,000 we African Americans experience every year.

I am greatly concerned about all that has to be done now and for recovery and reconstruction; but as a physician, the health care challenges that are immediately upon us trouble me most. I am concerned because as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, along with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), we have been issuing repeated calls for repairing and strengthening our public health system especially in our poor, minority, and rural communities. Calls that went unheeded.

I am concerned because we knew from a New York Academy of Medicine study that people would need more help and information to respond as instructed. I am concerned because another report on national health disparities will be released this week which will again tell us that disparities are widespread and due to persistent and institutional racial and ethnic discrimination and the socioeconomic problems they spawn in communities of color.

And so in the affected areas we have worsening chronic disease, diabetics without insulin for far too long, HIV/AIDS patients without medication, and babies without the proper feeding. Crowding and poor sanitation will increase infectious diseases, and we will have mental health problems now and for a long time to come. In this area the lack of the culturally competent providers we have long pressed for will be acutely felt.

No planning in Iraq, no planning here; yet another crisis has been allowed to develop. The President has not only to own up to the inadequacy of the preparedness and response, but he must also not cover it up. He has to work with us to correct it.

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity that the CBC will lead to make this right, to still become a better America. We can do it if we invest in our people and our country instead of giving tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. We can do it if we improve Medicaid, not cut it; if we restore proposed cuts to food stamps, WIC, public housing, small business programs, education, and all of the health care programs that improve the health services and health status for all of us who live here.

We can do it if we do everything that is needed to bring the destroyed places back and the displaced back home; if we strengthen the infrastructure in New Orleans and all around this country and in doing so create jobs and economic opportunity for all. We can do it, and in this time of great tragedy and distress, the time that usually brings people together, my prayer is that we will; and I call on all of our colleagues to support this effort.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for yielding to me, and again I concur with all of our colleagues in expressing our partnership, our involvement, our support of the gentleman from Mississippi, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS), and certainly the gentleman from New Orleans and Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON).

I want to start out by certainly illustrating an opportunity that our President has to truly lead here. We know that there has been a failure in national leadership. We have talked about that. We have criticized that. But we are going forward now, and there are some important points that need to be made, and I want to appeal to our President because I think he has an excellent opportunity to make up some lost ground on regaining the position of national leadership on this issue because it is not too late because we have got to move forward.

And I think one of the first orders of business, Mr. Speaker, is that the President would reach out to the African American Members of Congress. We are the duly elected representatives who need to be involved in every critical process going forward. We all know the faces on the television cameras. The majority of the victims were African Americans and poor. We know that race and poverty and class play a part in this. Who better to make sure that this Nation is sensitive to that important fact?

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It is not something to be brushed under the rug; it is something to be lifted up. For if it is true, there will be more than 10,000 or 12,000 individuals left, and as the water recedes in New Orleans, we owe it to those who have lost their lives, who because they were poor did not have a way to get out. And many in this Nation feel that our national leadership failed them.

Now is the time to pick up from there, and the first order of business would be to reach out to members of this Congressional Black Caucus and make sure that members of the Congressional Black Caucus are active in the investigation committees going forward, to make sure we are there to ask the right questions, to get the right answers, and there will be credibility going forward.

It is important for members of the Congressional Black Caucus to be on the spending committees. So far, there has been \$10.5 billion put forward. There is another \$50.5 billion that will be put forward later this week, possibly tomorrow. We must be at the table. We must help to decide where that money is going.

And then, Mr. President, here is a sterling opportunity to lead. It is going to take at least \$250 billion or \$300 billion, by all of the estimates that we have examined, and I have been on the phone to Harvard economists and others who have said that it is going to

take at least \$300 billion. We need a huge investment in New Orleans, in Louisiana. We need something there that will attract people to come back to New Orleans. One of the sad things I heard so many people saying is, I am going from New Orleans, I am not coming back to New Orleans. Fats Domino said it well: "I am walking to New Orleans."

All of us need to walk back to New Orleans. We need people coming from everywhere to walk back to New Orleans so New Orleans does not lose a beat; and in order to do that, we have to put a sizable investment in New Orleans. \$200 billion, \$300 billion, I do not know the figure, but it is certainly more than 50, certainly more than 100. I would think \$300 billion. And we have to think that way. That is what it takes for public works and transportation.

Then we need to determine, what do the victims need to rebuild their identity. They have no license, they have no addresses, they have no money; and where can they get immediate financial help? We have an excellent opportunity for leadership. I look forward to doing it, as do all of us here in the Congressional Black Caucus. This needs to be a partnership and a two-way street, and we look forward to working to make this a positive out of a negative.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi for yielding, and also to the gentleman from Louisiana, I want to thank him for his leadership and his hard work 24/7 in helping communities, your communities, work through this devastation, and also in leading this Congress in an effective response. We stand with the gentleman from Louisiana. Our constituents extend their desire to help in whatever way possible and to help in a very real way.

Mr. Speaker, I said earlier, and I have to say this again, that the world is watching. The world is watching as our Nation has been exposed. If anyone has ever doubted that there are two Americas, Hurricane Katrina and our government's shameful response have made this division very clear.

New Orleans is a city where 65 percent of the population was black. Nearly 30 percent, or one in three, were living below the poverty line. Twenty-one percent of the households earned less than \$10,000 a year. Eighty-four percent of the people living in poverty in New Orleans were black. People died because they were poor and black and young and old and disabled. The incompetence and the indifference demonstrated by this administration in responding to this tragedy was really quite shocking, but it was not surprising.

For some of us, however, this is an America that we know very well. It is an America that has often been swept under the rug by lawmakers and the

media. This is the America that many of us know, and that is why the Congressional Black Caucus and so many in this House fight each and every day against these obscene tax cuts for the wealthy, and Medicaid and housing and health care budget cuts.

This is the America that I know, and this is why I have said over and over again that the war against Iraq, based on distortions and false information, did not have to be fought. We did not have to spend over \$300 billion and deplete the resources that could have gone to domestic security, economic security, and taken care of our people right here at home.

Each and every Member of Congress should be frightened to death, seeing the lack of preparedness and the unacceptably slow and deadly response by our government. People died who would not have died if our government had responded quickly and efficiently. This is a crime.

Each and every Member of Congress has had a glimpse of what could happen in their districts should a natural disaster or, God forbid, a terrorist attack occur in the future.

Now Americans have risen to the occasion and asked what they could do to help. And after listening to a very disappointing briefing by Cabinet Members and, however, listening to Members of Congress from affected districts who, in spite of the odds, again have been responding around the clock to the survivors of this devastation in heroic ways, I have a few thoughts that I think we should do immediately.

Well, of course, we must recognize, first of all, and thank individuals and organizations who have continued with monetary donations and also providing donations of medicine, clothing, bedding, and hygiene articles. But do my colleagues know what? The Federal Government must step up to the plate and lead this effort. We must help find temporary transitional housing so that people can live with dignity and respect until they can return home.

And we must insist that the Red Cross hire staff, and many of us have had experience working with the Red Cross; they need to hire staff and volunteers who reflect the populations that they serve, such as African Americans and Latino volunteers and staff. They should be brought in.

Mental health professionals should also be sensitive to, and they should be of, the diversity of the affected populations and understand the cultural background of those who have been traumatized. And they should understand, quite frankly, that they just left a war zone, and post-traumatic stress syndrome will be setting in. And we must insist that the rebuilding process takes into account the populations who have been displaced. Developers should not just come in and create a city where no one can afford to return home. There must be affordable housing and good-paying jobs for those survivors of this devastation.

Also, we must ensure that survivors' losses are not compounded by financial institutions. Credit card late fees and penalties and mortgages, all of these issues must be addressed, and we must make sure that our Americans are protected from predatory lenders at this time of extreme need.

Let me just say, quite frankly, we must not allow military recruiters to take advantage of the misfortune of hurricane survivors. They should not be allowed to access temporary housing and shelters to recruit the destitute and the vulnerable. As the proud daughter of a 25-year career military officer, I honor and thank our service men and women for their bravery and service, but I do not believe that recruiting traumatized survivors of this hurricane is the right thing to do.

The world is watching, and I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) for leading the way.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi. I would like to extend my sympathies to all of the persons who have suffered.

Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for help for the survivors because they are black, of the black race; I am not asking that they be helped because some of them are of the white race. I am asking for help because they are all of the human race, and that is the race that counts.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we must do something that is critical: We must not continue to call them refugees. Because, Mr. Speaker, these are tax-paying Americans. They have earned the right to be called American citizens who are in need of our help. So I beg today that we extend the hand of friendship and that this Congress spend whatever is necessary to restore their lives.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, this is a Congressional Black Caucus hour. We wanted to talk about Hurricane Katrina and its impact on our Member districts. What I would like to do is offer the balance of my time to the gentleman from New Orleans, Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON).

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for his expert handling of this hour to help to bring to the attention of the American people the particular plight

of African Americans, the particular plight of people who are impoverished, the particular plight of disadvantaged citizens who have been afflicted by this storm, and the hope and promise that our Nation holds for them and for my great city of New Orleans and the gulf coast region. I want to thank the gentleman for his attention to this matter, and I thank my colleagues for joining us in this very special and important hour.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, while there has been much devastation brought upon the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina, I hope that apart from its devastation, we can say that Hurricane Katrina brought to light some of the atrocities that have been going on for years such as the poverty crisis in this country.

For far too long, we as a nation have neglected the underprivileged of this country. We are quick to criticize other countries for not taking care of their own, however, we have all but forgotten the poor in our own country.

A recent study by the Population Reference Bureau noted that Orleans Parish, Louisiana and Harrison County, Mississippi, the counties that are home to New Orleans and Biloxi respectively, had median household incomes of just \$31,369, 44 percent below that of the national average of \$44,684.

Additionally, 23.2 percent of the people in Orleans Parish and 14.6 percent of the people of Harrison County are below the poverty rate. Disproportionate rates of those people are African American. A whopping 35 percent in Orleans Parish and 27.4 percent in Harrison County.

High proportions of elderly residents of the Gulf Coast have disabilities as well. In New Orleans alone, 56.4 percent or 28,195 elderly resident have disabilities, compared to the national average of 39.6 percent.

About 9 percent of households in New Orleans did not even have a vehicle available to escape the storm. And for those who did have transportation, add to that the steadily rising gas prices which now exceed \$3.20.

This is simply unacceptable. The world is watching. And they are waiting to see if we are going to do right by our own citizens. If we will pull together to do what is right. We can send massive amounts of aid to tsunami victims, but we can't bail out the Gulf Coast. We fight for democracy across the globe, but when our own needed help we were slow to respond.

There is a gospel song that says, "Sweep around your own front door." Today, I say America it is time for us to sweep around our own front doors. We can no longer put on blinders to the poverty crisis that is now staring us in our face.

We must work within this Congress to put in place legislation that will help these victims not just over the next few months, but for years, because that is how long it will take for us to heal from this natural disaster.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing crisis for those who have evacuated Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, and to recognize the extraordinary efforts of Texans. And in particular residents of Dallas.

For the people along the Gulf Coast, I wish to express my deepest condolences.

This devastation has cost many individuals their homes, jobs, belongings, and worst of all their lives.

Almost a quarter million evacuees have traveled to Texas. Seventeen thousand of which have come to Dallas. This is an extremely traumatic situation. Many of these individuals are looking for missing family and friends. Most do not know if or when they will be able to return home.

The one bright spot is the thousands of Americans who have opened their hearts to volunteer time and money. I truly believe it is the personal efforts that make the greatest impact.

During this time of tragedy many heroes have emerged. Local residents, churches, and businesses in Dallas have overwhelmingly offered assistance.

The efforts of those who are volunteering their time at Dallas area shelters have made an immeasurable impact. In addition, many Texans have offered jobs or opened their homes to evacuated families.

I know that the generous spirit of Texans and of all Americans will help to aid this transition. When these dislocated people return to their communities, immediate economic opportunities should be given to them first so they can rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, we now look towards this Administration to exhibit the same type of sacrifice and humanity that countless Americans and charities have displayed.

I question those policies that stretched those National Guard units that could have rendered more immediate aid in New Orleans and elsewhere. First responders have not been given the tools they need. And this Administration drastically underfunded the Army Corps of Engineers, who are responsible for maintaining the levees surrounding New Orleans.

It is time to acknowledge our dependence on fossil fuels—whether foreign or domestic—which set the stage for further economic displacement ahead.

It is neither premature nor unpatriotic to raise questions as the federal government recovers its footing after an initially dismal performance. The point is that even though the government is now showing signs of progress, much work remains.

I can assure the Administration we, as Members of CSC, will do our best to work with them towards fulfilling our commitment to the American citizens.

I will be offering a comprehensive education appropriations bill along with Congressman HINOJOSA. There are currently 160,000 displaced students as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The Texas Education Agency predicts that as many as 70,000 displaced students will enter Texas schools this year.

This bill sets up a \$500 million fund for displaced students within the Department of Education. From this fund, states will receive \$3,000 for each displaced student that enters their school systems. This money will provide funding for additional classrooms, teachers, books, and supplies. These young people have been through a traumatic experience and providing a safe stable school environment is vital.

I will also introduce a bill that would call on the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that the displaced survivors of Hurricane Katrina and first responders receive the mental health services they need.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, think of the incredible stress these people are experiencing.

There is anxiety. There is depression. There is a sense of hopelessness.

I am a former nurse, and I worked in the mental health sector. I feel strongly that these displaced individuals, many of whom are left with nothing, desperately need mental health services to address the trauma they have endured.

This bill will call upon Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice to address those needs. Mental health should not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Emergency response to this calamity was disappointing. When I visited my District in Dallas and saw the suffering of many displaced individuals, I was struck at how far-reaching and long-term these issues will be. Let us make good legislative decisions to help them in the best way possible.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIRK). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

COMING TOGETHER FOR THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I hope that as my colleagues have spoken now for almost an hour, the American people will understand the depth of passion and concern that we are now experiencing as Members of the United States Congress.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for the devastation that they have experienced in their districts and simply suggest that this is not a question of "I's" and "me's," but it is a time now for "me's" and, if you will, "us's," a time for America to come together, and a time for us to stand steadfast and to be able to be the wind beneath the wings of those survivors.

I will also say, Mr. Speaker, that it is not a time to shy away from the critical questions that need to be asked and answered.

There are many people now today that had homes and had a sense of comfort and might now be sitting with their family around a television set, just finishing dinner, going out, coming back in. But, Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is, they had a home. And unfortunately tonight, as we stand in this wonderful testament to democracy, we have Americans who have experienced a brutal and unending disaster in their lives.

□ 2100

And so I come today most of all to offer my deepest sympathy for the ones who lost their lives, and my deepest expression of concern to the survivors. And they are survivors. For those of us who watched in utter shock the events of the last week, what an opportunity to come face to face in my own city of Houston with the survivors. What an opportunity to be able to see the greatest expression of charitable output, if you will, by the city of Houston and Harris County, as people worked day in and day out, first working with no road map, no structure on how to receive hundreds and hundreds of buses and thousands of people, almost 1,700 in one night, coming, individuals with the same clothing that they had on, suffering from overexposure, water, fear, trauma, individuals who had come from the Superdome and ultimately the Convention Center who thought they had been abandoned with no food, no water and no clothing and disaster amongst them.

These individuals survived, and they came with a resilient spirit, and they buoyed the volunteers, and they buoyed the leadership of our city and Harris County. They worked to improve the conditions of the Dome, albeit as I walked and saw the throngs of people and sometimes the despair in senior citizens begging to go home, as they sat by the wheelchair of an elderly person, sitting with no clothing, people looking for their loved ones, holding up signs, where is my daughter, where is my son, my grandmother, my mother, my husband, my wife; doctors coming in in throngs from the medical center and all around the community; clothing being brought time after time. It was an amazing outpouring, but yet there was despair.

But still, the volunteers in Houston kept meeting and meeting and meeting, recognizing that they could not give up as well. And now the George R. Brown Convention Center, opening its doors with people and wonderful sites for the children and libraries and the medical MASH unit.

And we have gotten better, Mr. Speaker. We know how to do it now. And these are, in fact, our brothers and sisters. And, yes, there is something to the story of the Good Samaritan. We are, in fact, not doers of the deed, but we do it; and we understand what it means.

But at the same time we rejoice that there are survivors, we must recognize that there must be an inquiry. And as we speak, I am writing legislation entitled the Katrina Inquiry Commission, because we remember the 9/11 Commission, and we are grateful for it.

I am also associated with writing legislation that will drop tomorrow that provides relief for the survivors, so that if they are in bankruptcy, none of the benefits from the Federal Government can be used to discharge debts.

We are also looking to provide more technology and working with FEMA

right now for the technology to help speed up the reunification of families. We are asking for more personnel on the ground and more resources so that we can put FEMA personnel in units like the Prince Center on Jensen Drive, doing an excellent job, just open their doors and allow people in; the Thurgood Marshall Center is a school in the North Forest Independent School District; and St. Peter Clavier.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we can do better for the children. We can do better for our community. But certainly America knows that we can do better in the future. But right now, as we work toward this, we must draw together. We must insist, as we work together in the Congressional Black Caucus, that the people know that we have not abandoned them.

I rise tonight with my colleagues eight days after Hurricane Katrina devastated parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. I want to especially thank Congressmen JEFFERSON and THOMPSON who have displayed great courage and resolve to help their constituents through the aftermath of this natural disaster. In my Congressional District in Houston tens of thousands of evacuees are being sheltered and fed. In fact, Americans throughout this country are stepping up to help those affected by this disaster. It demonstrates that once again in our darkest hour that we have united as a nation to help our brothers and sisters who now seek to rebuild their lives.

As we stand here tonight in Congress we must find steps to move forward to help those affected by this disaster and to try to prevent such an ineffective response from taking place again. I plan to introduce a number of legislative measures that will seek to alleviate the suffering of the survivors of the most devastating natural disaster in modern American history. I along with my Judiciary colleagues led by Ranking Member CONYERS will introduce legislation to protect the hundreds of thousands of families and small businesses financially devastated by Hurricane Katrina from being penalized by debtor provisions contained in the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, scheduled to take effect on October 17, 2005. This legislation is based in part on an amendment I offered at the markup of the Bankruptcy bill. We expect a Senate counterpart to be introduced this week as well.

We are concerned that just as survivors of Hurricane Katrina are beginning to rebuild their lives, the new bankruptcy law will result in a further and unintended financial whammy. Unfortunately, the new law is likely to have the consequence of preventing devastated families from being able to obtain relief from massive and unexpected new financial obligations they are incurring by forcing them to repay their debt with income they no longer have, but which is counted by the law.

Our bill makes several important adjustments. First, it would specify that individuals who are victims of natural disasters, and who incurred a substantial portion of their debt as a result of that disaster, are not subject to the "means test" and therefore cannot be forced into burdensome repayment plans. Although the current law includes an exception to the means test if the debtor can demonstrate "special circumstances," qualifying for such an

exemption will be quite costly and burdensome, and require numerous detailed filings and legal certifications. This is the last thing a hurricane victim should need to worry about. Since the current bankruptcy law counts all income earned in the six months prior to the bankruptcy as part of future income, this means that hurricane victims who have lost their jobs will be considered high income debtors who are presumed to be abusing the bankruptcy system. This is obviously absurd; so our bill gives the hurricane victims an automatic carve out, as we already do for certain categories of veterans.

Second, it would specify that disaster relief payments are not counted as part of income for purposes of calculating repayment plans. These are one time, limited payments, and should not result in a hurricane victim being treated as a high income debtor. Just as we excluded Social Security, compensation for victims of war crimes, and terrorism payments from current monthly income, we also should exclude these payments as part of the calculation of relevant income.

Third, our bill would give the court the discretion to extend certain deadlines for businesses devastated by Hurricane Katrina, to insure that a business is not inadvertently forced to liquidate—and lay off workers—as a result of an arbitrary deadline. Other key provisions of our bill would:

Exempt from the requirement of completing credit counseling and credit education in order to get a discharge debtors who cannot complete those requirements because of a natural disaster (a similar exemption is provided under the bankruptcy law for individuals serving in military combat zones and people who are disabled or incompetent);

Exempt victims of natural disasters from the provisions of the new law that make it easier for landlords to lift the automatic stay and evict their tenants who are in bankruptcy;

Exempt victims of natural disasters whose records are likely lost or destroyed from the more onerous paperwork and documentation requirements of the new law; and

Provide additional filing options for debtors who have relocated or are otherwise unable due to a natural disaster to file in the venue designated by law.

The legislation we plan to introduce will prevent new bankruptcy provisions from having adverse and unintended consequences for the hundreds of thousands of individuals now facing financial ruin by providing needed flexibility for victims of natural disasters in bankruptcy proceedings.

I also plan to introduce a bill that will provide tax breaks for individuals who take in evacuees into their home. These people are stepping up to provide shelter and relief to their fellow Americans and I believe it is certainly proper to encourage this behavior through the implementation of tax breaks.

In addition, I propose legislation that will grant a minimum of 20,000 two-year tenant-based housing assistance vouchers for Katrina's victims, together with transportation and relocation assistance to be used where necessary. These vouchers should be administered by local housing agencies presently administering HUD-funded Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher assistance, which are located in or near the areas hardest hit by Katrina. These agencies are already positioned to provide housing assistance and can play an ex-

tremely helpful role meeting the immediate housing needs of Katrina's victims. This legislation would also allow the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to issue a wide range of statutory and regulatory waivers in order to most effectively and flexibly utilize HUD resources to meet the needs of victims.

Finally, I am calling for the establishment of a Commission to study the genesis of the devastation caused by the hurricane. We need a 9/11 style commission to know everything that took place. In addition, I am calling for the establishment of a position of an ombudsman for FEMA in order to provide proper oversight. Without a proper investigation we can not get all the answers and without the answers we can not provide the necessary legislation and oversight needed to try to prevent this kind of human suffering from happening again in the future.

HONORING CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM REHNQUIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIRK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the recognition, and I rise this evening to discuss a man and a history on the bench, judicial bench, that probably will be recorded as one of the great careers in the legal profession in the history of the United States. I am referring to Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Today we laid to rest Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who has served this country and served it well for many, many years. Justice Rehnquist is going to be sorely missed by the citizens of this country. His wisdom and his leadership and his all-around ability to unite and work with every faction of the Supreme Court has been an inspiration to all of the citizens of this country.

He served tirelessly with great wisdom, judgment, and leadership. He leaves behind a legacy as one of the most influential Chief Justices in our Nation's history; and today, in sadness, we bid him farewell, and we say to Justice Rehnquist, job well done.

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, William Rehnquist grew up in the nearby suburb of Shorewood. His father, the son of Swedish immigrant parents, worked as a paper salesman, and his mother as a multilingual professional translator.

I come from a part of Texas which has a large Swedish heritage, and I am sure that Justice Rehnquist got his base principles established by that Swedish heritage that he grew up in.

After service in World War II with the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946, and with the assistance of the GI Bill, Rehnquist earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Stanford University, finishing in 1948. In 1950 he received a master's degree in government from Harvard. Rehnquist later returned to Stanford University

to attend law school, where he graduated first in his class in 1952, even ahead of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, currently serving on the Court. He also served as the editor of the Law Review.

Rehnquist served as a law clerk for Associate Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson both in 1951 and 1952. Following his clerkship, he settled in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was in private practice from 1953 to 1969.

In 1964 he also served as a legal advisor to the Barry Goldwater Presidential campaign.

When President Nixon was elected in 1968, Rehnquist returned to Washington, D.C. to serve as Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel. In this position Rehnquist served as the chief legal counsel to the Attorney General. He served as Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel until 1971, when President Nixon nominated him to replace John Marshall Harlan on the Supreme Court.

During his time in the Court, Chief Justice Rehnquist authored countless landmark decisions and thought-provoking dissents. He carefully reasoned his opinions and insisted that the principle of federalism is an integral part of our Nation's constitutional structure. His opinions recognized that our government is one of enumerated rights and dual sovereignty, with certain functions and powers left to the States.

His jurisprudence has shown that the first amendment establishment clause does not dictate government hostility toward religion. Rather, the government should act in a manner which respects our freedom to worship as we please, neither favoring nor disfavoring religion.

The last 19 years have shown that Chief Justice Rehnquist was a terrific choice to lead the Supreme Court. Though some of his colleagues on the Court disagreed with him at times, there is no doubt that they admired his strong leadership and his likable personality and his ability to build a consensus. While always a forceful advocate for his views, the Chief Justice consistently strove for consensus on the Court and treated his colleagues with courtesy and respect.

It is thanks to his personal attributes that even in an age of 5 to 4 decisions, the Court never descended into bitter infighting. Instead, Justice Rehnquist led a court united by friendship, committed to the law and service to our country.

One example of Chief Justice Rehnquist's commitment to the law is his opinion in *Dickerson v. The United States*. Although a long-time critic of *Miranda v. Arizona*, Rehnquist nevertheless placed his past position aside and wrote an opinion in *Dickerson* effectively affirming *Miranda*.

In 1999 Justice Rehnquist lent his services to the Senate when he became only the second Chief Justice in history to preside over a Presidential im-

peachment in the trial of President Clinton. During that difficult time, with the Nation and some of its Senators locked in partisan struggle, the Chief Justice's very presence reminded us of the solemn legal duties the constitution requires of the Senate.

A historian of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Rehnquist, had authored three books on the history of the Court and the American legal system.

As Chief Justice, Mr. Rehnquist led not only the Supreme Court but the entire third branch of government. In that role he was an eloquent advocate for a strong and independent judiciary. In his annual reports on the judiciary and other public pronouncements, Chief Justice Rehnquist championed the interest of the judicial branch, earning praise from judges of all jurisdictional stripes.

At all times Chief Justice Rehnquist performed his duties of office with nobility and courage. Even in his recent sickness, he found the strength to administer the oath of office to President Bush and to consider the challenging cases that came before the Court.

Peggy Noonan wrote of President Bush's inauguration, "And the most poignant moment was the manful William Rehnquist, unable to wear a tie and making his way down the long marble steps to swear in the President. The continuation of democracy is made possible by such gallantry."

Our Nation is deeply indebted to William Rehnquist. Above all, the rule of law was paramount for Chief Justice Rehnquist. He understood that our government cannot survive without a judiciary that places the rule of law above politics.

Justice Rehnquist has tirelessly served our Nation for the last 3 decades, and he serves a permanent legacy as one of the great Supreme Court Justices. The next Chief Justice will surely have big shoes to fill.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as he wishes to consume to my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you. We call you Judge Carter here in this institution. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) has earned a great deal of respect in this institution because he is not only a man that brings judicial experience to this body, but he is someone that we can all trust. He is someone that we know has a heart that burns with patriotism, for love for his country, for love for his fellow human beings and just a commitment to human freedom.

And I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that it is my precious honor to serve with a man like Judge Carter, we call him. You know, and perhaps that is all too appropriate tonight as we speak of judges, because we talk sometimes of judges legislating from the bench. Maybe Judge Carter comes to this body with just the kind of experience he needs to have. But we are

grateful that he is a man that did not legislate from the bench, and that he understands the difference between the judiciary and the legislative body.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to pay a few words tonight of tribute to a towering figure in our country, Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

The era of the Rehnquist Court has come to a close, and William H. Rehnquist has stepped quietly into the arms of God. Chief Justice Rehnquist was one of America's great Chief Justices. This Nation has suffered a great loss with his passing, and as twilight falls upon this remarkable man's career, the most notable elements of his extraordinary legacy must not be lost to revisionist history, Mr. Speaker, because in his tireless defense of the United States Constitution, Chief Rehnquist strongly advocated for a judiciary that applies the law rather than legislates from the bench.

We, as Americans, should be very grateful for our Founding Fathers and for the genius of the constitutional system that they left to us. It was a framework that protects human dignity and individual freedom by enforcing limits on government power. It is incumbent upon ours and future generations to jealously guard that precious gift bestowed upon us by our forebears.

Chief Justice Rehnquist spent decades on the highest Court in the land acting as the Constitution's protector. He was a constitutional originalist, defending the process of interpretation of the law that is constrained by the text and the original meaning of that great document.

Mr. Speaker, there is a fundamental reason why we, as a self-governing people, so carefully put pen to paper to memorialize our Constitution and our laws and our great founding documents. They are written words that have become an agreement between the people and the government. We write it all down to keep a record and an understanding of the limits placed on government by the will of the people.

□ 2115

Chief Justice Rehnquist's efforts to advance this understanding that at times the Federal courts must enforce limitations on Federal power while recognizing the preeminent role of democratically elected institutions at both the State and Federal levels, Chief Justice Rehnquist was a valiant defender of States' rights in recognition of the superiority of a federalist system when governing peoples of divergent views, divergent faith and cultures.

He was an influential man in leading the Court back toward the original intent of the Constitution after decades of abuse by a liberal activist Court born of the Roosevelt era and the New Deal philosophy.

Mr. Speaker, that New Deal activist Court actually delivered such bizarre rulings as in *Wickard v. Filburn*, a ruling that a man in Ohio who was growing wheat in his own backyard as a

means to feed his family and his own livestock had somehow violated the Interstate Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution because of the quantity of wheat that he grew could have actually been sold.

Moreover, in their unanimous decision, this liberal activist Court affirmed, "If we assume it is never marketed, homegrown wheat competes with wheat in commerce. The stimulation of commerce is a use of the regulatory function quite as definitive and quite as definitely as prohibitions or restrictions thereon."

Mr. Speaker, what a circuitous and false logic.

The stage was then set of course by this activist Court for massive expansion of Federal power. Year after merciless year a liberal Supreme Court, drunk with self-imposed power, delivered an unprecedented assault upon the rights of the States and of the people.

During his years on the court, especially his early years, Mr. Speaker, Justice Rehnquist was often called the lone dissenter to outrageous decisions, even once receiving a Lone Ranger doll awarded by his friends. But yet his adherence to the Constitution, faithfully expressed in some of his earliest dissents, had great influence upon the Court as evidenced in later majority opinions where he was vindicated in his previous conclusions.

In 1973, when the Supreme Court illegitimately bestowed its imprimatur on abortion on demand, it was Justice William Rehnquist who wrote a scathing dissent to that majority opinion in *Roe v. Wade*. He said, "To reach its results, the Court necessarily has had to find within the scope of the 14th amendment a right that was apparently completely unknown to the drafters of the amendment." How very eloquent.

Chief Justice Rehnquist was also instrumental in fighting back assaults on religious freedom in his efforts to make clear that the Constitution ensures government neutrality in matters of religious conscience, but not the requirement to move religion altogether from the public square. He understood the Constitution.

In the 1995 case of *United States v. Lopez*, the Rehnquist Court marked the first time in over 50 years, Mr. Speaker, that the Supreme Court upheld the rights of States, ruling against the expansion of Federal power and finding a Federal law in violation of that now woefully distorted commerce clause of the Constitution.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist was often found standing in the breach of defense of the Constitution, endowing this Nation through the years with a noble legacy of resistance to a liberal, activist Court determined to make its own law and enact its own agenda.

Mr. Speaker, he gave the American people his last full measure of devotion and stayed at his post through great personal pain and sacrifice while he was fighting cancer. To the very end,

he led a brave and good-natured effort to restore the Supreme Court to its ethical grounding.

Mr. Speaker, as we bid loving farewell to this stoic champion, I reflect upon the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson in tribute: "Though much is taken, much abides; and though we are not now that strength in which the old days moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are, one equal-temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate, but strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Mr. Speaker, when the final battle with illness and physical weakness came to Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, he resolutely remained at his post for his President, for his country, and for the future of all mankind. He did not yield.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for that very well-presented picture of this great man that we are talking about here tonight.

The gentleman is right. There was a time when William Rehnquist stood alone for the rule of law and a strict interpretation of the United States Constitution in a world where lots of people actually made jokes about him, that were of the other persuasion.

To us that are conservatives and respected his intelligence, his wit, and his humor, and his bulldoggedness, he was someone that we respected and we loved because when he got ready to do his job, he did it.

One of the things you can look at is, when your colleagues who disagree with you have comments that are positive about you, I think that speaks a lot about not only his ability to stand his ground but his ability to stand it with grace as a man who demanded and received respect because of his behavior and because of the way he handled himself.

Now, Chief Justice William Brennan is well known for the way he uses certain language. I am going to read a quote from Justice Brennan, and some of it is a little rough, but I think we will enjoy it. He is talking about Justice Rehnquist.

"He is just a breath of fresh air. He is so damn personable. He lays his position out, casts his vote. You know exactly where he stands on every goddamn case. And he's meticulously fair in assigning opinions. I can't begin to tell you how much better all of us feel and how fond all of us are of him personally." That is a quote from Justice Brennan.

Another of his colleagues, Justice Louis Powell said, "In many ways he is the best-educated person I have ever worked with, very familiar with the classics. He'll quote them with confidence. Everybody agrees generally, I suppose, that he's brilliant, but he has a good sense of humor and he is very generous and he is principled."

Former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall said, "Rehnquist is a great Chief Justice."

All these people were people on the other side of most of the issues with

William Rehnquist, and yet they speak of him as a colleague that they highly respect and they believe he handled himself very well.

As we are talking about colleagues that we respect, I see that we are joined today by the gentleman from east Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) and also one of my judicial colleagues, coming to this august body from the judiciary of Texas, which is getting to be a habit for quite a bit of our congressmen, and we are glad to have him. I wonder if the gentleman would like to step up and make a statement about the Chief Justice and join in a colloquy about the Chief Justice.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure and an honor to be here to talk about the great Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

The gentleman knows, those of us that really believed in strict constructionism, that the Founders and writers of the Constitution meant what they said, know this to be a great man, a brilliant man. We do mourn in the passing of the Chief Justice, 19 years, as the gentleman pointed out, as the Chief Justice, 34 years as a Justice. That is incredible that he maintained his humility, his sense of purpose, his servanthood-type mentality.

I just want to highlight some things. Under his leadership the 10th and 11th amendments began to have more meaning, as they were intended. For so long they had just been forgotten. The 10th amendment talks about if it is not an enumerated power, basically it is reserved to the people in the States.

This is a man that had an intellect unsurpassed by anybody on the Court, past or present, and yet sometimes the intellect seems to get in the way and you cannot see the forest for the trees. He saw the words in simplistic brilliance. He knew they meant what they said and he said so.

In *Alden v. Maine*, *Seminole Tribe v. Florida*, *U.S. v. Printz*, *U.S. v. Lopez*, that was one the Chief penned himself, those were cases where he pointed these things out.

In the *Lopez* case, it is a great case, one of my favorites, it had the powerful language that reins in the commerce clause power that Congress has. And he explained that commerce clause means what it says. You cannot just keep reaching out and say a school is part of interstate commerce. That is not the intention and everybody knows it. And he helped rein in the Court to where it should be.

Now, the Chief Justice wrote the 2005 opinion *Van Orden v. Perry* that allowed the State of Texas to continue to display a monument containing, among other things, the Ten Commandments. As I sat there and listened to the oral argument before the Supreme Court, and I am a member of the Supreme Court bar, and it was an honor and privilege to be sitting there, you look up and you see Moses holding the Ten Commandment tablets and, here they are trying to decide if it is okay for the

State of Texas to have a monument to the Ten Commandments.

He understood the hypocrisy. He understood how silly it was for people to try to be so intellectual, as a lady back in Mount Pleasant where I grew up used to say, "Some people have a Ph.D. but the truth is they are still P-H-U-L's. They are fools." But the Chief Justice had that kind of delightful sense of humor as well.

In the establishment clause he framed the issue very well when he said, "This case, like all establishment clause challenges, presents us with the difficulty of respecting both faces. Our institutions presuppose a Supreme Being. Yet these institutions must not press religious observances upon their citizens. One face looks to the past in acknowledgment of our Nation's heritage, while the other looks to the present in demanding a separation between church and State. Reconciling these two faces requires that we neither abdicate our responsibility to maintain a division between church and State nor evince a hostility to religion by disabling the government from, in some ways, recognizing our religious heritage."

At times, like the World War II monument where they just did not include the part where Roosevelt said, "So help us God," like that was going to offend somebody, it reminds me, I had a summer in the Soviet Union back in college. Stalin wrote Trotsky completely out of the history books. That is what Chief Justice Rehnquist was saying. You cannot just rewrite history to suit yourself. A Supreme Being, the acknowledgement of God, has been part of our history, and it should not be ignored.

The Chief quoted a case previously decided by the Court in 1952 because he also believed in precedent, like we do, like we did as judges; that is what we are supposed to do. That has been placed as far back as a rule for justices to follow. He understood that just because something, a monument, a speech or a display, contains religious symbols or words, it does not mean that it violates the establishment clause.

□ 2130

On the sensitive issue of abortion, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) pointed this out, he was steadfast. He said the States have that right. They have the right. So he dissented in *Roe v. Wade*; and again, he dissented in *Parenthood v. Casey*. It was clear to the Chief, he believed, that States had a right to place restrictions unless they were prevented from doing so by clear language of the Constitution, and that simply was not there.

This same usurpation that Members of Congress just talk about daily, this was a man that lived it. He did not believe in usurpation of the State and local governments' rights.

As I reflect on the Court and awe and reference from such a humble man of

peace, man of life, I could not help but think about the words in the Declaration of Independence. We are created equal by our creator, but it is pretty clear a lot of us did not get this equal amount of common sense.

Everybody on the Supreme Court is brilliant, some of the brightest minds in this country; and yet the common sense was not equally passed around those nine Justices. So things that made complete sense, common sense, were so simple that it apparently flew right by some of the pseudo-intellectuals. Here was a man who made the complicated simple, as it should have been. He is a man this country owes a great debt of gratitude to. He is a man that I will always have great respect for. He is a man that should and could be a role model for all Americans. He loved liberty more than self.

He was a servant, and I thank God for Chief Justice William Rehnquist. I thank God for the life he lived. I thank God for the life he tried to make sure that others would have as well, and our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with his loved ones.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) for giving me an opportunity to share in this tribute. It does weigh heavy. It is important that we pay tribute to such a great man.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I was thinking back. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) and I both served in the Texas judiciary, and I do not know if you were there at the time or not and if you remember. At one point in my 22 years on the bench this took place, but we had a State judicial conference. Our guest speaker was a very, very personable and intelligent professor of law from the University of Virginia. He actually was smart enough to carry two full days of education for judges by himself, and you have got to be pretty good to do that.

In one of these sessions, he was analyzing the President's Supreme Court, and this was prior to Chief Justice Rehnquist becoming Chief Justice, when he was Justice Rehnquist, and he was talking about the makeup of the United States Supreme Court at that point in time.

He started by tracking the liberals on the Court, which at that time was the vast majority; and he talked about their capabilities and what direction they wanted to take things and all this stuff. Finally he got down and he said those of you who are feeling very depressed because you do not have a liberal bend towards the law, do not lose heart because you have a champion, and he is equal to the task of all those we have just discussed put together in his ability to analyze and take forward his view of the United States Constitution.

He said never sell short William Rehnquist. He knows what he is doing; he knows where he wants to take the law; and he will take it there. And believe me, as long as it is a Republican in office, he should and will be the next

Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and at that time he will turn the corner on many of the decisions which we have found to be very strange and not very well directed towards the trial courts and the trial courts' abilities. So do not lose heart. You have a champion and he is a white knight and he will deliver for the conservative view, the rule-of-law view of the Constitution.

He certainly did. Even though he wrote dissents, sometimes those dissents were so telling that they moved the Court slowly. Absolutely a phenomenal intelligence and ability to wordsmith, to word things so that they led us in a direction we needed to go.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I think about one of the last cases the Court decided under his Chief Justice administration, the *Kelo* case. He was in the dissent, and it brings to mind the quote, "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance." He did a great deal. He was able to help turn the Court back toward having the Constitution mean what it said.

Yet, here again, the *Kelo* case, he dissented. He was, as you say, very clear, very precise. He had Justices Scalia, Thomas, and O'Connor with him on that in dissenting. They all four dissented, and yet a majority of the Court turned around, said you know what, we are going back to the day of fiefdoms and kings and dukes. So whoever is better friends with the ones in power, well, they can just flat take land away from those that have, if they are going to promise to provide more bounty to the ones in power. Phenomenal decision, just an embarrassment. It should be for everyone who sits on the bench anywhere.

Yet, to the very end, he maintained his integrity, he maintained his principle, he maintained the clarity of mind to understand not only is that not right, not only is that not fair, not only is that un-American, it violates the Constitution.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, if I can reclaim my time, I noticed that the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), our friend, has arrived in the Chamber. I would really like to hear what he has to say about Justice Rehnquist. So I yield to our colleague and good friend from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. It is an honor for me to stand on the floor here with two of the three judges that we have from Texas to help guide us down through this constitutional path and my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), who is a pure constitutionalist and whom I have the honor to serve on the Subcommittee on the Constitution with.

I have a lot of things to say about Chief Justice Rehnquist, and it is an honor for me to have an opportunity to say a few words here, but I would like to first start by recapping some of his life. That is a life just so well-lived and so impressive to see what he has done

and how he put it together piece by piece, almost without flaw.

Looking back through that life, we know that we have lost a great public servant just last Saturday, and it happened in the middle of the disaster down in the gulf coast. So some of the media was swamped by those current events, and this happened underneath that shell in a way that we need to raise this up and commemorate this man's life in a special way.

He was just a month short of his 81st birthday. He battled cancer that eventually took his life, but he battled it with the same determination that he battled for principles that we all here hold so dear.

The Chief Justice awed the Nation by never giving up, and he never retired. He continued his service to our Nation until the very end. He was consistent with his lifetime of service, and he also was consistent with the vision of the Founding Fathers in that these Justices would be appointed for life. They were expected to serve for life or until retirement. He served a full, full lifetime for this country and 33 years, and he was consistent and true to his principles all the way through. He was a noble and honorable American who was part of the Greatest Generation. Examining his lifetime and career gives us insight into this powerful figure.

He devoted the majority of his life to serving this country in numerous capacities, and I take you back to 1943 to 1946 where he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and there is no question he had an incredibly deep intelligence.

He attended top schools, earning numerous advanced degrees, and was consistently at the top of his class, and unquestionably served as a model for his fellow students.

He received a BA and an MA in political science from Stanford and another master's in government from Harvard. He graduated first in his class from Stanford in 1952, just two places ahead of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. He served as a law clerk for Justice Robert Jackson on the Supreme Court of the United States in the 1951 and 1952 terms and practiced law in Phoenix, AZ, from 1953 until 1969.

He served as Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel from 1969 until 1971. As Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, it was one of his primary functions to screen potential Supreme Court candidates.

When Justice John Marshall Harlan retired, a search went out for a replacement, and Attorney General John Mitchell, who many of us remember, he was Rehnquist's boss at the time, announced he had found someone suitable for the job. That person was Justice Rehnquist whom Nixon appointed to the Court. So at the tender age of 47, which at that time was a young age for those appointments, and at this time as well, he was confirmed as Associate Justice on December 10, 1971, by a vote of 68 to 26. I can only imagine there are

26 votes out there that would like to have the opportunity to reconsider that vote.

His first day on the job was January 7, 1972. He served on the Nation's highest court throughout seven Presidencies. In 1986, Chief Justice Warren Burger retired, and President Reagan nominated Justice Rehnquist through to the reins of the Court as Chief Justice. There was a confirmation debate and deliberation that ensued. He was confirmed as Chief Justice on September 17, 1986, by a vote of 65 to 33, another 33 that I believe would like to have a chance to reconsider that vote in light of the historical 33 years of service of Chief Justice Rehnquist.

We have gotten to know a little bit more about him in the last few days. His management style, his effort to be fair, to be a giving and forgiving boss, but one that was also a task master. As a result he was able to form a cohesive Supreme Court body. Even though they had a lot of different personalities and a lot of different kinds of common sense they brought to their jurisprudence, Justice Rehnquist pulled them together. He left quite a legacy.

In elementary school, he was asked about his career plans by his teacher, and what I think is one of the best prophecies I have heard of a career in some time, he replied, "I'm going to change the government." Now some people say, I am going to change the government, they mean they are going to grow government or they are going to adapt government in light of modern contemporary values.

Chief Justice Rehnquist did change the government. He fought a rear guard action to preserve our Constitution, the text of the Constitution. He was a constitutionalist. He was a model of judicial restraint. He stayed true to the principle and the paramount principle which is strict construction. No matter what path the other members of the Court took, at the beginning of his career on the Supreme Court, Justice Rehnquist was often a dissenter on a Court filled with judicial activists. He held firm to the guidance that the Constitution itself provides and was eventually joined by allies who helped him hold on to some of the meaning of our Constitution's text.

He led the Court in preserving States' rights, which was referenced here, and I appreciate that discussion; but it started with *U.S. v. Lopez*, which struck down a Federal law banning guns near local schools. Now I approve of the policy, but I more approve of his constitutional decision in dissenting from the Congress's policy. In *U.S. v. Morrison*, which struck down substantial parts of the Violence Against Women Act, again something, a policy, that I approved of, but a constitutional decision that I agreed with, and I appreciate that restraint.

He was not yet there on the Court when *Griswold v. Connecticut* in 1965 established a right to privacy. I wish

he had been there on that day because that was the day that the Court turned to an extreme activist Court, established this right to privacy that had never been found in the Constitution before. It was discovered in the emanations and penumbras of the Constitution, meaning that we laypersons could not divine that. In fact, maybe some of the judges here could not have found that right in the Constitution either.

He was a staunch defender of the right to life. He authored *Rust v. Sullivan*, where the government can withhold funds from clinics that advocate abortion. He strongly dissented in *Roe v. Wade*; *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which reaffirmed *Roe v. Wade*; and in *Stenberg v. Carrhart*, which was the constitutional decision that found a right to partial birth abortion. Justice Rehnquist held the line against that. He needed more help on the Court. Most every day he was there he needed more help on the Court. He firmly rejected the extra constitutional right to privacy that his colleagues created.

□ 2145

Chief Justice Rehnquist also did something many shy away from today. He recognized that the free exercise clause of the first amendment is just as important as the establishment clause.

He authored the 2002 case that upheld school vouchers in *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*, and strongly dissented in the 2000 case that held that public schools could not allow organized prayer at sporting events, even if the speaker is a student, and that was *Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe*.

He joined the majority in *Agostini v. Felton* in 1997, which allowed public school teachers to provide remedial education in parochial schools.

Rehnquist dissented from the Court's 1985 decision that moments of silence in public schools are unconstitutional. That was *Wallace v. Jaffree*.

And in 2003, he strongly dissented in the Court's affirmative action cases, *Strutter and Gratz*, which we remember.

And I sat in on those cases and I remember watching him sitting on the bench as he deliberated on those presentations and oral arguments. He condemned the racial preference policies as a sham and a naked effort to achieve racial balancing. His position in 2003 matched that of the majority he joined in the 1978 *Bakke* case, which held that Federal law does not permit a university's consideration of race in admissions.

He was consistent from 1978 until 2003. He was consistent until the last day of his life. Justice Rehnquist opposed the reading of "public use" as being substituted for "public benefit" in this summer's *Kelo* eminent domain decision, which we have had much discussion about here on the floor of this Congress. And I think all of us have engaged in that. He argued the fifth amendment means what it says.

And I would support that statement that those 12 words in the fifth amendment of the Constitution, "nor shall

private property be taken for a public use without just compensation," are some of the clearest and cleanest words that we have in the entire Constitution, yet the majority of the Court, with Justice Rehnquist and Justice O'Connor dissenting, held otherwise. I do not believe that the fifth amendment could be written more precisely, more concisely, and I would challenge the attorneys that we have across this country to write that better than it has been written.

Both the personal and case histories I have discussed here show that Chief Justice Rehnquist, whose passing we mourn, whose legacy we celebrate tonight, was a man of great principle and honor. I firmly believe that without Chief Justice Rehnquist's presence on the Court for the last 33 years, our Constitution would be unrecognizable. It is to him that we owe our deepest thanks for preserving our Constitution for future Americans to fully restore to its original text.

I would say that there was a time in my life when I had the privilege and honor to sit in the presence of this great man. I am not going to pose the question here into this RECORD tonight, but I posed a question to Justice Rehnquist that caused him to deliberate for quite some time, and he finally answered, "I am going to elect not to answer that question." Now, I do not believe he elected not to answer the question because he did not know the answer. I believed he elected not to answer the question because of how the answer would reflect on the other members of the Court.

He had an ability to do a calculation on a question or a problem and boil it down to the root quicker than anyone that I have watched process these heavy legal questions.

He was a giant of a man. He lived a life that was well lived, and we are here to celebrate tonight and give great honor to a man who hung on to this Constitution as dearly and as strongly as anyone has been charged with when they take the oath to uphold this Constitution.

It has been an honor to be a citizen of this country for the 33 years that he has served us so well. It has been an honor to have worked with him, to have been in his presence, and to deliberate with him on those occasions, and an honor to be in the courtroom to hear the oral arguments and an honor to read the opinions that he has given us. He has left us a legacy.

He has also left us a duty and a responsibility to pick up this ball now, and where he has held onto this Constitution, it is our job to carry forward and reestablish the text of this Constitution that he held so dear, and that we all hold so dear.

Our prayers go out to the family. Our prayers of gratitude for the lifetime, the legacy of Chief Justice William Rehnquist will continue into the future.

As I say, it has been an honor to be serving in this government with a man

like that, and I hope and pray that we will be able to carry on the legacy that he left for us.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I was thinking as he was speaking, and he gave an excellent presentation of the Chief Justice, but we are joined here in the Chamber today by two men who basically made their entire life a part of dealing in the justice system both as members of the bar, members of the bench, and who also built, basically from scratch, from what I know of both of them, very successful businesses, overcoming insurmountable obstacles. And then, when they had the ability to continue to go out and make those businesses thrive, they volunteered to come to Washington and become a part of the justice system, a part of the legislative branch of our government. This kind of defines the kind of man that Justice Rehnquist personally reached out to, kind of everybody.

He wrote the opinions of those of us who honor our heritage, who honor the language that our forefathers wrote into the Constitution and think that if that is what it says, that is what it says. It does not take a genius to read the paper and say that is what it says. And with all his skill and writing ability, really you can cut it down to the fact that that is the way he looked at it. He said, Wait a minute, let us read the Constitution. That is what it says. It speaks volumes that Justice Rehnquist was able to do that in such a talented manner and in such a manner that challenged legal scholars across the country.

One of his opponents from Harvard University made a comment about him, something to the effect that no matter what you thought of him, whether you agreed with his ideology, he said, I have to give Rehnquist an A. That is the kind of talent that he had. He could take the causes that those of us working in the trenches, the trial judges, and we liked to say there is a difference between trial judges and appellate judges. We shoot from the hip and make those decisions and then they get to grade our papers. Of course, Judge Gohmert has been both, so he has experience in both those areas, but I am just an old trial judge.

Mr. GOHMERT. If the gentleman will yield, I might just say that it is easier to grade papers after people have shot from the hip.

Mr. CARTER. Well, at least you know they are shooting from the hip.

Mr. GOHMERT. But we all loved, I think, his simplicity. Even towards the end of this great man's life, I remember seeing on television the reporters all after him, asking are you going to resign or are you going to retire? And he came back, this man of brilliance yet simplicity, and said, It is for me to know and for you to find out. That is the kind of man he was even to the end, cute, humble, and a lot of fun.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, if the judges would yield, there is another

anecdote that is worth mentioning, and I do not know if it has been passed along here tonight, but I think it demonstrates his sense of humor. And sometimes it was self-deprecating and sometimes it was succinct.

Several years after he had been appointed to the bench, he was asked what it is like to serve here on the Supreme Court. He said, Well, you spend the first 2 years here wondering how you got here, and the rest of your time wondering how they got here.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for sharing that, and I now yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I think my primary reason for being here tonight was just to not let this man's towering contribution to the judicial process slip away into history. There is an old quote by Dostoevski. He said, "He who controls the present, controls the past. And he who controls the past, controls the future."

Of course, as somebody was saying, there are a lot of revisionists out there trying to rewrite history in order to affect the future, but this man's history is very important to our country. I will make a prediction tonight that a lot of the decisions, where he found himself in dissent, in the next 20 or 30 years will turn in the other direction, and we will see that this man was before his time.

There is a saying that if you fail without succeeding, if you struggle without succeeding, it is so someone else might succeed after you. And if you succeed without struggling, which I think some of our modern-day justices are going to do, it is because someone has struggled and succeeded before you. This man, I believe, is going to be vindicated in society, because he did not find a lot of these hidden things that the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) talked about.

We have seen judges say that somehow the words in the Pledge of Allegiance, "under God," might be unconstitutional; or that it is unconstitutional to protect a 9-year-old girl from Internet pornography, or it is unconstitutional to protect an unborn child from partial-birth abortion. With regard to all of these insane notions, he did not see them.

One woman said, Maybe these judges who find all these things ought to be out looking for Osama bin Laden if they are that good at finding things that are not there.

This judge saw the Constitution for what it was. He did not try to make a new revolution. He simply tried to affirm the one we already had. I think that tonight we celebrate the life of a man that many justices of the future will stand on his shoulders and look back and say, you know, Judge Rehnquist was right, Justice Rehnquist was correct.

The ship of state turns slowly sometimes, but this man had his hand on the rudder long before the rest of us

even knew. And I again just wanted to join with all of my colleagues and honor this man's life.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and let me say this. As we discuss Chief Justice Rehnquist and what he has accomplished and the legacy he brings to the United States of America, we are doing this on the very eve of the beginning of the new selection of a Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. It is, I think, appropriate to realize that as Judge Rehnquist was serving 33 years on the highest court in this land, he also was writing history books to record history.

He knew just what my colleague said, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), that it is important that we remember the history as it was, not revise it to make it what we want it to be. So he wrote three history books about the Court so we could say, Well, what does history tell us about that event at that time? And so the judge, the great researcher, has given us the research and a direction on the history as it pertains to the Court, something the other justices of the Court that will follow can turn to as additional information to get a picture of where the Court was coming from as it made rulings.

It is very important, and I hope our colleagues in the Senate, as they look at the confirmation of Judge Roberts, I hope that they are looking at the history of the United States Supreme Court and the legacy of William Rehnquist.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, there is a point that comes to mind, and I can get it quickly made. This right to privacy that was in the emanation's penumbras, in the shadows, was something that was never recognized by Chief Justice Rehnquist. That right to privacy will be presented to Judge Roberts, and he will be asked. In fact, he will be demanded to recognize that right to privacy as a condition of his confirmation over in the Senate, a very right to privacy that Chief Justice Rehnquist never recognized.

That is how they are going to try to amend the Constitution and the confirmation process over in the Senate. I think it is important to recognize that the legacy of Justice Rehnquist should be preserved in the confirmation process in the Senate as well.

Mr. CARTER. I wonder how you can be unqualified to serve by not recognizing that right, when there are members sitting on the Court at this time who do not recognize that right.

The point of a Supreme Court is that there are multiple points of view, and you should not be requiring only one point of view on the United States Supreme Court. To make a confirmation hearing dependent upon one point of view absolutely flies in the face of justice in America.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciated hearing from my colleague from Iowa regarding his saying in elemen-

tary school that he wanted to change the government. I think about the example of the emperor who had no clothes, yet all the crowd got swept up in seeing clothes that were not there and saying, Oh, are the clothes not beautiful? They were not there. Chief Justice Rehnquist was one of those if he had to stand alone and say they are not there, there are no clothes, he did it.

Just in conclusion, I think about the end of Frost's poem: Two roads diverged in the woods for Chief Justice Rehnquist many years ago, and he took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference. It has, in fact, changed a Nation for the good.

□ 2200

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman. One of the downfalls of appearing in the Congress with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is these guys are great in quoting all these things off the top of their head, and that is hard for an old trial judge who is just used to shooting from the hip. I do enjoy the wonderful quotes these guys pull out and quote them right. It is a blessing to have them as Members of our Congress.

Mr. Speaker, you have been very patient today as we honor our passing Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, as we laid him to rest today. We thank you for your patience in allowing us to express our opinions about him.

ISSUES AFFECTING AMERICA IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to address the House once again. I am glad that we are here back in the people's capital of the United States to represent those that sent us up here to represent them.

This hour is designated by the Democratic Leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), and the rest of our leadership on the Democratic side, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), also the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), our vice chair of our caucus; and week after week we come to the floor to share with Americans issues that are facing not only them, but also this country.

I can tell you that we appreciate the fact that the leader had enough foresight and insight to know that not only those of us that are in the 30-something Working Group, but young Americans, have to have a voice in this process.

As you all know, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and a number of

other issues that have faced the Nation since we recessed for the summer to go back to our districts to also take care of other congressional business, there is a lot that has happened for and to Americans. I think it is important for us to just reflect a little bit on what has happened as it relates to Hurricane Katrina.

Tonight I am joined not only by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), but also the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), who is my neighbor in Florida and representing south Florida. The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) and I, both our districts were touched by Hurricane Katrina as a Category 1 storm, but not as a Category 5, some may say 4, that hit the gulf coast area; and our hearts go out to those individuals that are going through the process.

I think tonight not only are we going to talk about the issues that are facing many of these families, but many of them are young families, many of them are elderly; and because of the mistakes and the failures in some part of our emergency management agency and other responding agencies, there was loss of life that could have been prevented. I think we should take this in a very serious way. The responsibility of this Congress, one, is to ask the questions and to make sure it does not happen again.

I do commend not only the Democratic leader for recommending that there be a task force or a select committee to deal with the issue of the recovery process and to be able to review the whole Hurricane Katrina experience, but I am glad that the Speaker has taken her recommendation and moved on it and they will appoint a task force to deal with this issue, because I think it needs the kind of oversight to make sure that we do not make the victims victims over again because we thought that it was important to appropriate some \$50 billion-plus towards the recovery effort without the appropriate oversight to make sure that it gets where it is supposed to be.

Mr. Speaker, I also feel, before I yield to my colleagues, that it is important that we all understand that we are in the first 2 minutes of the first quarter, if this were a football game, as it relates to the recovery process. I think the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) and other Members from States that are constantly hit by hurricanes understand that we are in the very early stages.

We know that a number of Americans have been turned off by the recovery and the response, and there will be a time and place to be able to identify that. That time is now, that time is also in the future, but also to make sure that we do not continue to fumble the ball.

When I say "we," I think it is important to understand that we do have an

executive branch that has the responsibility for appointing responsible individuals to carry out the task that we legislate for here in this Congress, and that we make sure that they have the dollars, A, that is the question as relating to levees and other preventative measures that could have prevented loss of life; and, B, making sure that there are individuals that can make the decision without an act of Congress to go in and save lives in a timely manner.

So, I am glad, Mr. Speaker, that we are here. I am glad that the 30-something Working Group, that one thing that not only the Democratic Caucus can count on, but also this Congress can count on, we will come here week after week to make sure that the American people know what they need to know and make sure that this Congress also hears the voices of those that cannot be heard here.

I have some information, but I am going to yield to my colleagues, A, talking about the process on what are the programs that are available to Americans, because, Mr. Speaker, I feel those that are victims, and I am talking about in the tens of thousands, that are victims, some are in shelters, but, guess what? Many have been taken in by their family members and friends throughout the country. Maybe FEMA, maybe the State government, maybe the local government has not been able to locate these individuals to let them know what they are eligible for.

If they left their home in the middle of a storm trying to swim out of their home and the water is over the roof, they may not know they are eligible for assistance from the very government they have been paying taxes through the noses to over the years. So as it relates to their home and as it relates to their job, to even making sure they are able to receive the kind of counseling, their children receive counseling, it is important that we tell them and break it down to the point that they can understand. If they have a problem as it relates to getting that information, that is what their Member of Congress is for.

So we have people throughout this country, we have the list of how many people are displaced in different States, but how many of those individuals cannot be reached. Hopefully, we will reach family members and loved ones that can share with them their rights, so that they will be able to take advantage of some of the assistance that has been provided thus far.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield to my good friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. It is again great to be here with my colleagues from Florida and Ohio. It is so important that we spend the time that we spend here each week helping to get the message out to our generation and, quite honestly, to the generations ahead of us and behind us.

We had a devastating tragedy happen to us in our country, and that is to all of us, about 10 days ago. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) and I literally live at one point or another through every storm in the "cone of error," as every storm that approaches the United States at some point or another, the gentleman's and my home and the homes of our constituents are in the cone of error for some period of time. So we know what it is like to stare down any one of a number of different levels of hurricanes or tropical storms.

As we speak tonight, we have Ophelia just about 100 miles off the coast of our State, yet again another tropical storm warning. We are up to "O" now. It is just never-ending.

One of the things that I would like to spend some time on tonight with both of your indulgence is we do need to get the information out, and one of the things that I did on Tuesday at home in south Florida was help to try to channel the energy of south Floridians who obviously were devastated by the last Category 5 hurricane that hit the United States and that unfortunately hit us in south Florida, deep in the hearts of our community, and we had an outpouring of affection and assistance from across the world. So you can imagine listening to this, what people in south Florida so badly want to do is return the favor and give back to the people in the gulf States and across the country what was given to them 13 years ago.

They do not know where to channel that energy, because there are so many relief organizations, so many on-the-spot relief organizations that have cropped up in the last week; and, unfortunately, if you recall during Andrew and during the 9/11 attacks, you have groups that will form within a matter of days to take advantage of a whole lot of money that is flowing through people's hands.

So what we did in south Florida is we channeled people's energy through one organization, Volunteer Florida, which is an organization affiliated with the State that exists throughout the year to help foster volunteerism. But we turned it into the clearinghouse for our State and gave people a phone number that they can call. I will check my notes and provide it. I do not want to give out the wrong number. Log on to www.volunteerflorida.org. We are trying to make sure that people go through an agency they know they can have confidence in.

Beyond that, there is an absolute necessity, I feel, for us to talk about what has gone on in the last 6 or 7 days, or, rather, what did not go on, because it is just absolutely unacceptable to me, and unacceptable is not a strong enough word.

The response, the lack of response, the indifference, the insensitivity and the actions and words of the leadership that is running this country in response to this devastating tragedy is just inexcusable to me.

While I have heard many of my colleagues and other people across this country say now is not the time for finger pointing, well, do you know what? If we did not talk about what was not going on last week, then, quite honestly, I think President Bush might still be on vacation even today. I think quite honestly that perhaps there would not have been a response even to the degree that we needed it without someone saying that the emperor had no clothes. Where was the help?

We know, because we live in the cone of error, so often in south Florida that you have several days' notice, and they did have several days notice that a Category 5 hurricane was bearing down on the gulf coast States. Where were the troops on the border of the cone of error? Where was the readiness? Where was the preparation? Where was the response? Where was the organization? It was nowhere.

We have got to make sure not only that it never happens again, but that there is an investigation and that there is a discussion in this body as to why it happened. We should talk about FEMA and why it is being led by a person who has absolutely no previous emergency preparedness or disaster experience, none, why his ineptitude was allowed to continue. Why a year ago when Florida faced four hurricanes, FEMA was handing relief checks out like candy to people who were not even victims of the storms.

There has got to be some accountability, and the time is not 2 months from now. We have billions of dollars that we are appropriating here and are about to appropriate that we should be appropriating, but we are going to go put it in the hands of people who have proven that they are incapable of handling disasters like this? Something needs to happen so that we can hold these people accountable on many different levels.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I agree 100 percent with the gentlewoman. And to look back and hear all the information that FEMA had beforehand, an article here from Cox News and the New Orleans Times, Dr. Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center, was talking to FEMA. They were going through simulations on what exactly could happen and what the worst-case scenario could be, what the storm surge capabilities were for overtopping levees.

I think it is important, if this is not pointing fingers, we get paid to oversee administrative government, and that is what we are doing here. The thing that is outrageous is that the people who are in charge and who are incompetent for those early days are the same people that are running the operation now. Thank God we have got some military in there now to actually fix some of the problems.

But I think it is important that we share with the American people, not to be critical, but so the problem gets

fixed. This is our responsibility here. This is our constitutional responsibility here.

Dr. Max Mayfield, and you can get this on the Internet, the Cox News article said, knew storm's potential. Just to read through here a little bit and share with you, there were briefings by this Dr. Mayfield who told FEMA that the strength of the storm and the potential disaster it could bring were made clear during both briefings and an informal advisory which warned of a storm surge capable of overtopping levees in New Orleans and winds strong enough to blow out windows of high-rise buildings.

"We were briefing them way before landfall, Mayfield said. It is not like this was a surprise. We had advisories that the levee could be topped."

These guys had the information and they failed to respond. And the most insulting part of this whole thing is to have the President say days afterwards, "I do not think anyone anticipated a breach of the levees."

□ 2215

I mean, it is just not true. It is just not true because the FEMA people knew, and there were these advisories and there was all this information that FEMA had, and it is unacceptable that this is the way the government is supposed to work. Because after 9/11 the American people charged this Congress, reelected this Congress, reelected this President because he had the capability supposedly to keep us safe. I do not think there is one American out there now that would even feel close to safe if something happened here.

I do not know, and it seems like the goals that we wanted to try to communicate, intraoperability where people could communicate with each other because they would have the proper communication equipment, the predisaster mitigation which they used out West for an earthquake where they actually went in early and secured buildings and spent \$20 million, which ended up saving \$500 million out there, that program that Mr. Witt started was called Project Impact; and the day the earthquake hit on February 28, 2001, was the same day the President cut that program. This was a lack of foresight for many, many, many years.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to just highlight that this is not an isolated incident. It would be easy to say that FEMA was just overwhelmed and could not possibly have been expected to be prepared for a storm the size of Katrina since this administration changed the rules of the game when it comes to FEMA. FEMA used to be an independent agency prior to the Bush administration and prior to its being absorbed into the Department of Homeland Security

after 9/11. FEMA was an independent agency with a director and a staff that had expertise in disaster preparedness.

I want to just highlight for my colleagues prior to Hurricane Katrina some of the instances of irresponsibility on FEMA's part under Secretary Brown's leadership. In 2004 Florida officials recorded 123 fatalities from last year's hurricanes. We had four hurricanes that hit Florida last year. FEMA pays expenses for 315 deaths; 123 fatalities documented from last year's storms. FEMA pays expenses for 315 deaths. There is something wrong with that.

In 2004 FEMA reimbursed over 5,000 people \$9.3 million for rental assistance when a follow-up study showed that most residents never left their homes. In 2004 FEMA reimbursed people for 11-piece bedroom sets when they just owned a bed. In 2005 Hurricane Katrina strikes Florida damaging over 200 homes. FEMA has declined to pay individual assistance to those homeowners.

And I stood in the yard of an 86-year-old woman on Monday who lives in my district who was in tears, whose hearing was so poor she could barely hear what I was saying to her. Her home had no roof. Her neighbor's home across the street was basically crumpled in his yard, and around the corner was the same type of home with the roof ripped off and lying on the front lawn. FEMA has decided that there is an 800-home standard for destruction or damage before they will pay individual homeowners reimbursement for their damage.

Let me just show my colleagues the type of damage that FEMA says people are not eligible for assistance. This is what FEMA will not pay for. After Hurricane Katrina, as a Category 1 storm, struck Florida last week, this is the damage that they say these people do not deserve reimbursement for because we did not have 800 homes suffer this kind of damage.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Because why?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. FEMA is saying that the standard they are using in 2005, and as I have outlined for my colleagues, which they had no such standard in 2004, coincidentally in a Presidential year, they are saying that because Florida did not reach the threshold of 800 homes that were damaged that our homeowners who have damage are not eligible for individual assistance, meaning they cannot get reimbursed by the government, by FEMA, for the damage.

Now, I will not claim by any stretch of the imagination that Floridians suffered the same type of strife and damage that people in the gulf States did from Katrina, but I will argue that hurricanes know no boundaries. Hurricanes do not respect State boundaries. Katrina did not know the border of Florida and Alabama and on westward. The impact on a homeowner in Florida is the same as it is on the homeowner who suffered the same kind of damage in a gulf State. This is what FEMA is

denying. It is disgusting. And it is just not going to stop. We have got to get the word out to people, Mr. Speaker, that there are places that they can turn to for help, but clearly FEMA was not one of them.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that everyone understand that Homeland Security Director, the FEMA Director, or the President of the United States can reverse an original decision by FEMA not to pay individual homeowners or assist individual homeowners who do not have insurance, that are eligible for Federal programs. It is almost like saying that we have the antidote for their problem, but there are only 200 or 300 people affected and we have to get to 800 before we can help them.

I mean, it does not make sense, and because of that we have asked the President, and a bipartisan letter has gone to not only the President but also to the FEMA Director and also to the Department of Homeland Security Secretary, about looking at this very small issue. But I can tell the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that if there are issues of the very obvious, what happens under a \$50-plus billion dollar appropriations to an agency that cannot see that there is a need out there that needs to be met?

Let me tell the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) when Americans pay their taxes, they expect a response in times such as this. They do not expect bureaucratic lip service. They expect action. And I just want to make sure the people are clear on this. Folks may say, well, you know, you all are there and you all are Democrats and all, and it is your job to be able to point out everything that is wrong. That is incorrect. And I know the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is from the heart of America, this, that, and the other; but the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) and I are from the South, and I think this is an issue about how this country feels about the South, how they feel about people that live in the South.

I will tell my colleagues this: maybe in another part of the country the response would have been different, but I can tell the Members right now there are a lot of individuals that are down there that pay taxes just like anyone else that expects representation. I do not know, maybe this lady may be a Republican. She may be an Independent. We do not care. She needs assistance.

And the bottom line is that FEMA is supposed to be there in a time of need. The Federal Government is supposed to be there in a time of need. When the local government resources are out or depleted or coming close to being depleted, that is why we have a Federal Government. They are not independent countries out there. Louisiana is not by itself. Alabama is not by itself, and I can guarantee my colleagues that Mississippi is not there by itself. So

why should they be treated any differently than any other part of the country?

The bottom line I feel is what is the Federal obligation to the South? What is it? And I feel that we really do not have to paint a picture for Americans. We really do not. They have seen it. And they saw folks having press conference after press conference talking about what the situation is. They say, We knew that 5 or 6 days ago. And what my colleague was talking about with the hurricane director, they knew. They were just hoping that the levees held.

But I think it is outstanding that the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) brought pictures here tonight, because when we talking about the 30-something Working Group, third-party and fourth-party validators are important because we have folks who take to the floor saying, Well, it is not what some people tell you that it is. Do you believe us or your lying eyes? We see it on television.

The reason I talked about information, that it is important that we disseminate information, I want the Members and the American people to see what we get in the U.S. Congress. We get one sheet of paper talking about a recovery process. Like my cousin used to say, If I am lying, I am flying. The bottom line is that this came out as Congressional Advisory No. 8, September 6. This is yesterday's advisory. Today is like three quarters of a page. I thought I would at least get a full-page report. It is just bullets and feel-good language, not telling us anything.

I just want to take this little segment out here while we are talking about the major inequities here, and hopefully, Mr. Speaker, hopefully, someone will say we need to correct this. Not only should we provide more information to Members of Congress but we should also make sure we provide information to more victims.

This is what it is: the Housing Task Force, whoever they are, are also identifying long-term housing facilities to assist disaster victims as quickly as possible. What is "quickly as possible"? Do I pay my taxes as quickly as possible, or do I have a date to pay my taxes?

Here is the other issue: assuring that security and order to the impact areas, maintaining law and order is a priority to assist recovery and evacuation efforts, deliver relief in a timely and effective manner.

This is stuff that one puts on their Web site when they are selling cookies.

The bottom line is we have people that we have not even found yet. I am talking about FEMA or whatever the case may be. But here is the issue: we must assume nothing. And I tell my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I have said this before and they all have heard me, I do not care if they are Republican, Independent, Democrat. They need to go see the wizard and get

some courage and say, listen, it is not working and we need to make it work, not going down there and walking around for a day saying, well, you know they are doing the best they can do, because folks are hurting.

So we have got to get this information out. We have got to make sure that this lady and other folks are able to get the assistance that they pay taxes for. So if I have anything to contribute here tonight, and I have some other information, and I see that the gentleman from Ohio is looking at me, but if I have anything else to contribute here tonight, I want to make sure this Congress understands. Here is a question for the Congress and for the Federal Government: What commitment do you have to the people that are living in the South? That is what I want to know. I want to know is it lip service or is it for real? And I can tell the Members right now from what I am seeing, there are no recommendations for a national day of mourning. People have died in this thing, and we are finding more people. There are no recommendations to go down to the South and have a joint session of Congress. It is beyond a natural disaster. A lot of it is failure of government.

I am coming in for a landing. There was a letter that was written today to a chairman of a major committee here of serious questions that were asked. Could New Orleans' levee system hold? The budget of the Corps of Engineers for construction projects in New Orleans District was cut over 40 percent between 2001 and 2005 apparently to free up funds for the war in Iraq and homeland security projects.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Say that again.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am going to finish, and then I am going to go back over it again.

In 2004, for the first time in 37 years, the first time in 37 years, the Corps of Engineers halted all work. They stopped all work on the New Orleans levee system. Not because they felt like it. It was because they did not have any money. I am on the Committee on Homeland Security and we knew, and I know the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) has information that they went through a whole exercise about what if this happens. They knew it could happen. So when someone lines up in front of a camera and starts talking, I do not care who they are. I was emancipated many years ago; so I do not care what some may feel about what I say here tonight. The bottom line is if it is the President or the village council person or whoever it might have been as it relates to holding back funds from the levee system, saying this was a natural disaster, what could we do, we could have governed in a way that we should govern on behalf of individuals in the South that pay taxes just like anyone else.

And the bottom line is if it was not for Katrina, Mr. Speaker, we would have been voting here on the estate tax for a huge tax break, to even make the

reality even more evident that the Corps of Engineers never would have had started work on the levee system next year or the year after that or the year after that because we have no money.

□ 2230

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I think this gets back to a basic concept that we have seen over the course of the last couple of years here. The outfit that runs this body and that lives in the White House and this administration, they just hate government. They just hate it, and they think that if it was gone and abolished, everything would be fine. So, if you bring that attitude to government, that government cannot do anything good.

And then your philosophy leads you to a point where you put an attorney for Arabian horses and a guy who used to run horse shows in charge of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that is where that philosophy takes you, and then you get someone who is incompetent to handle the job, not a professional emergency management specialist, but just a political appointment, because government is for supplying our friends with graft, and that is all this is.

Now, the gentleman mentioned something, and I want to go through this and I read a little bit of this article earlier. And this is Dr. Mayfield and what he said. He participated, he and his staff participated in a 5-day Hurricane Pam exercise, which was sponsored by FEMA and the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness last July, that assumed a similar storm as Katrina would hit Louisiana, and they called it Hurricane Pam at the time, on July 23 of 2004.

So FEMA released, after they simulated this Hurricane Pam in Louisiana, FEMA announced the exercise and basically summed up the simulation. Here it is, quote: "Hurricane Pam," and this is FEMA talking in July of 2004. "Hurricane Pam brought sustained winds of 120 miles per hour, up to 20 inches of rain in parts of southeast Louisiana, and the storm surge toppled levees in New Orleans. More than 1 million residents evacuated, and Hurricane Pam destroyed between 500,000 and 600,000 buildings. Emergency officials from 50 parish, State, Federal, and volunteer organizations faced this scenario during a 5-day exercise held this week at the State Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge."

Then, a year later, this same government says they had no idea that could possibly happen. How disingenuous is that? You ran a simulation. You war-gamed Hurricane Katrina and you called it Hurricane Pam a year ago. And then you come to the American people and say, the best you could come up with is, who would have thought the levees would have broken. Thinking everybody is stupid? Thinking this would not come out?

It is criminal, criminal, what happened. You put an Arabian horse purchaser in charge of FEMA, you war-gamed it the year before, and the guy still does not know what he is doing, and people died because of it. That is the sad part of this whole thing.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, to piggyback on what the gentleman from Florida said about tax cuts, I mean it is just mind-boggling that yet again, their answer, their solution for everything is more tax cuts. I mean, I would not believe it unless I had it in print in front of me, but Treasury Secretary Snow said just the other day, today is September 7, he said yesterday at a press statement, this is in response to what we should do about Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath. He said, "Making the tax cuts permanent would be a real plus in a situation like this, because people would know they had going forward the advantage of lower tax rates," Snow said. "And when people know they have lower tax rates locked in going forward, it affects their behaviors. It makes them more confident of the future."

Now, let us talk more about FEMA's failure, because that is really what it boils down to at the end of the day, because we need FEMA to be there, we need FEMA to generate confidence in Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans, and I am going to use the word "Republican," but the Republicans ran last year on being the party that would be the best choice to protect people. They were the security party. That is supposedly the thing that tipped the scales.

Well, it is not just an issue of security in a terrorist crisis, which all of this resulting from Hurricane Katrina calls into question now, about whether they really are the party. They are clearly not the party of crisis.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. They have proved they are not the party.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. They have proved they would not be able to be there in a disaster, in a disaster of any major proportion.

Let me just detail, because I have another chart here that is going to outline a couple of things that I think are important, FEMA's failures. Let us talk about cleanup, and let me just acknowledge that "personnel" is spelled wrong on this chart. I want to make sure the people knew that I know how to spell "personnel."

Cleanup: FEMA has failed for pay for debris removal from private property. This has resulted in many homeowners incurring large expenses paying for the removal of not only their own fallen trees and other damage, but also rubble blown onto their lots from other locales.

Let us talk about Federal aid.

So we give them an "F" in cleanup, because they are basically ignoring Florida as if a storm never hit our State.

FEMA must be more responsible in allocating Federal aid. We are talking about the things that FEMA should have been doing already and must do going forward. About \$30.8 million in FEMA money has been awarded to residents in Miami-Dade, a county that I represent and that Congressman MEEK lives in, much of it for replacement of appliances such as televisions and air conditioners, although the storms last year in Florida barely grazed the county. Meanwhile, this year, when the storm hit the county directly, now they are not reimbursing people who have legitimate damage and roofs ripped off their houses. Meanwhile, other storm-ravaged areas still have many families who continue to be displaced because of the severe damage to their homes. So they get an "F" in Federal aid.

How about personnel? Subsequent reports detailed how FEMA inspectors received little training, that FEMA approved millions in assistance to other areas of the country largely unaffected by disasters; that government scientists said that FEMA misrepresented wind data that it used to justify the payments in Miami-Dade County last year, and that the agency paid 315 hurricane-related funeral claims in Florida, even though the official death toll was only 123. So they get an "F" in personnel.

Fourth, the shocking statistics in terms of their preparedness. Florida officially recorded 123 fatalities last year from hurricanes, as I outlined, but were paid for 315 deaths, including those of a man who shot himself and a stroke victim who was hospitalized more than a week before the last storm hit, and that was documented by the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel. In one case, a FEMA worker tried unsuccessfully to persuade a coroner to count among the hurricane casualties a morbidly obese heart attack patient who purportedly was scared to death.

This is the kind of thing that went on in FEMA before Katrina. These are the people that we are putting our confidence in and that people in the gulf coast States are having to put their confidence in, who are going to come in and rescue them and clean up this mess.

Most recently, disaster aid earmarked for hurricane victims in central Florida paid for funerals for people who died of cancer, a brain aneurysm and, in one case, advanced AIDS, according to the local medical examiner. That was in the Sun Sentinel as well. Asked to comment on payouts in central Florida, FEMA spokesman James McIntyre did not provide a response. He also did not address how many more funerals FEMA has paid for since that time.

We have to make sure that FEMA takes responsibility and is held accountable for its mishaps. This is an organization that gets an "F" in every single thing that they are primarily responsible for. This is the organization

that Americans are supposed to be putting their confidence in, that is going to be there for them when disaster strikes, and in advance of disasters striking that they should be ready for, and afterwards when they have to come in and clean it up. It is just absolutely inexcusable and disgusting.

For example, with the President, responding to the damage that the gentleman talked about to the levees, he said on Good Morning, America last Tuesday, that no one expected the levees to fail. Yet, he cut the budget that would have shored up those levees just last June, in 2004.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, that was the same, almost the same identical phrase that we heard from the Secretary, the new Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, about 9/11 when she was National Security Adviser: Who would possibly think anyone would take a plane and fly it into a building like a missile? Well, we found out later that people knew that was going to happen. They knew that was an option.

It is the same old rhetoric with these people over and over and over again. It does not make any sense. It just does not add up. Now, all of a sudden, the spotlight is on, and we have all of this information here, and we have pages and pages and folders and folders full of how much they knew beforehand and played dumb.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. The same letter here that I read from earlier, I just want to read another paragraph out of the letter to the committee chairman from Ranking Member WAXMAN and also Ranking Member OBERSTAR and THOMPSON of the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Government Reform and also the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The President said, I don't think anybody anticipated the breach of the levees. But just the opposite is true. Multiple reports have predicted that a large hurricane could overflow the levees and cause massive damage in New Orleans. Both the Red Cross and FEMA ranked a hurricane in New Orleans as the Nation's most dangerous natural disaster threat.

I am going to tell my colleagues, this is well documented. Senator Breaux, who is retired, came out of retirement and jumped on TV 2 days after the storm saying, Excuse me, I am sorry, I just, I do not know what folks are talking about when they say they did not know this was going on. I mean, year after year, we tried to get money from the Federal Government. His entire congressional career was based on getting money for the levees. That is why some folks started talking about, well, you know, they are here talking all that mess, and we are trying to save lives, they are talking about what is not happening.

Let me tell my colleagues what we are doing here tonight. We are saving lives, literally. We are saving lives here and pointing out the inequities of an

agency that we just gave \$10-plus billion to and said, You handle it, okay? And the bottom line is that just as upset as Americans were about 9/11 and the loss of life, they need to be upset about Katrina and the loss of life and the lack of oversight in governance. The bottom line, period, dot.

So I think any American life that is lost when it could have been prevented deserves to be brought to the highest levels of Congress on both sides of the aisle. I am beyond partisanship right now. This is about responsibility. And the bottom line is, if the tables were turned and there was a man in the White House that had a Democrat, had a "D" behind his name, we could not stop the line of Republicans out the door to talk about what he or she did not do when they were supposed to do it and how they were supposed to do it.

So the bottom line is this: What are we going to do? I do not have a family member, God bless, in this situation, but there are people that do. And guess what? They may not be a Member of Congress. We have to give voice to those individuals.

What commitment does the Federal Government have to the people that are living in the South? That is the question. That is the bottom line. I do not care if they are a chairman, ranking member, somebody elected them over something in this Congress. The bottom line is, What is the commitment to the South? Because that is the only thing that I can point out, I say to my colleagues; I cannot come out with anything else.

Maybe the folks down there do not talk as fast as other folks, I do not know. Maybe they do not have endowed universities like we have in the North and in the central part of this country, I do not know. Maybe there are individuals that do not necessarily care about infrastructure and look at the warnings as it relates to New Orleans. Now it has happened.

The question is, what are we going to do about these individuals who are living in football stadiums and folks think it is okay for them to be there for 6 months. You can reach over and touch the next person in your bed. Do we have sex offenders living in the same stadium on the 50-yard line or the 60-yard line from a child? These are the things that we have to correct. These are the things that we must pay attention to. We cannot allow it to happen, or they will be made victims time after time and again.

So the bottom line is that we have individuals that are displaced. We have a Federal agency that we are about to give \$50-plus billion, and I guarantee my colleagues that there will be no real discussion about oversight.

□ 2245

There will be no real action. I will guarantee, we will not stand by and watch this administration get this money and start handing out contracts to their buddies.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. That is exactly right. We are not going to let that happen.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. And making individuals victims again. Because I guarantee, and I told you this earlier today, I may be in some retirement community at 80, if God is willing, walking around with a walker, and someone looks back in the history books about what took place at this time in the moment, and they look at me and they say well, were you not a Member of Congress at this time? What were you doing? I will tell them refer to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and also reflect on what happened and what the American people did because they knew what these individuals were doing and making these individuals victims again.

Now, do not get me wrong. I am not saying that it is intentional. But I guarantee you for folks who do not look and wear the flag of oversight and making sure that this never ever happens again, folks talking about never ever happen again. Let us stop the bad from happening. And the only way we are going to stop the bad from happening is governing in the way that we are supposed to govern.

And you know something, I say to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), we are in a bad situation. We have constituents that are hurt. We have constituents that are raising money and doing those things and sending truckloads and giving to the American Red Cross and to the Salvation Army and to the NAACP and all the other groups that have relief funds. There are kids throughout this Nation that are giving lunchboxes and giving toys and all of these different things and running around.

Meanwhile, the big kitty, the \$50-plus billion we are running around here on a hush hush kind of thing and Members barely know what is going in the bill, what oversight is there. Where will it go? No one has been removed for a more qualified individual to be placed in a position that can continue the response and the recovery.

We are in the first quarter of this recovery and we know that our quarterback is not up to the task to be able to make it to the goal line. The FEMA Director, possibly the Homeland Security Secretary, possibly the individual in the White House that is quarterbacking the administrative moves on behalf of the White House, we need to call them in. We need to call time out, and we need to change our personnel for individuals that not only carry the resume but have the wisdom to be able to carry it out.

And you know, I am on the Homeland Security Committee, and I know these individuals. I sit down and talk to them. I have gone to the Department of Homeland Security. But guess what? This is not about personalities. This is about governance. And it is not personal. It is just business, and the business of saving lives and making sure

that these individuals are made whole as much as possible. And we have got to correct it, not now but right now.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You talk about the quarterback, and let us continue the football analogy. If you have got the quarterback in the FEMA Director not having any ability to get things done, let us continue the football analogy and call Secretary Chertoff the coach, and the President the man in the front office. You have got both of those people who we cannot have any confidence in either.

And I will take a less than left-leaning example here, an excerpt from Fox News Sunday, because the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) talks about it not being intentional. The gentleman is right. It is not intentional. Their response was not intentional. It was just indifferent. The indifference is what is shocking. And you had Chris Wallace go through this exchange with Secretary Chertoff on Fox News Sunday this past Sunday.

Mr. Wallace said, "But Mr. Secretary, you know there are an awful lot of people around the country that are asking these questions and want to hear answers from you today."

During the week, during this past week you seemed to minimize or not to know about a lot of problems on the ground in New Orleans. Let us watch some of those."

And then he went on to show him some of the clips.

And this was Secretary Chertoff's response: "We are extremely pleased at the response that every element of the Federal Government, all of our Federal partners have made to this terrible tragedy. There have been isolated incidents of criminality. We have all seen pictures of looting."

Then he goes on to say: "I have not heard a report of thousands of people in the Convention Center who do not have food and water."

Well, I can understand why, because yesterday when we had the briefing in this Chamber from most of the members of the Cabinet, you had one of the Secretary of Defense's military leaders stand up and say that the pictures we have all seen on TV are just like looking through a straw, that that does not show the full picture. We are looking through a straw, that they are extremely pleased with their response and it is going exceedingly well.

So then he goes on to say, what Chris Wallace says: "Mr. Secretary, how is it possible that you could not have not known on late Thursday, for instance, that there were thousands of people in the Convention Center who did not have food, who did not have water, who did not have security, when that was being reported on national television?"

Secretary Chertoff says: "Well, Chris, you know, that is one of the issues we have to look at. I mean, we were in constant touch with what was going on in the field, getting information from State and local officials. As it happened on that very Thursday I was in a

video conference with State officials and did not get any information about this. And one of the things we will look at is why in the middle of this emergent crisis there was a conflict in the information."

You know, I can tell Secretary Chertoff why the State and local officials did not feel like they had to tell you that there were people at the Convention Center, because you could not turn on your TV and not see them dehydrating in front of your very eyes. How about the woman who had her dehydrated baby who she could not even wake up? I mean, I have a 2-year-old. God forbid that ever happened in my family. I can assure you that if it happened in the community that I represent, I have a hunch that the response would have been a little bit quicker because my constituents are not poor and they are not African American primarily.

You know, you talk about the South, and obviously I am one of those Members that would be very protective of the South. But this could be a natural disaster in Detroit or in Wisconsin or name any State with a black community or a predominantly poor community, and there but for the grace of God go them. I mean, really.

We are not here to point fingers. We are just here to point at what has been happening in front of our very eyes. And this has just got to stop. We do have to come up with solutions. We cannot hand out \$50 billion to a person who is running the show like it is a circus, like he is the ring leader in a circus, and not a very good one. It is just inexcusable. We cannot ever let this happen again, and we have got to draw a line in the sand and say this far and no further.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. It almost brings up the point, whether it is black or white or whatever, number of electoral votes the way this group operates. You know, if you have got a State that has enough electoral votes, we will maybe even be there before anything comes. But if you do not have enough, you know, you are on your own, and we are going to absolutely roll the dice.

And as we are kind of creeping into the final few minutes here, I want to just touch upon what the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) has just said, that I hope the ultimate point that we can all carry out of this whole tragedy that is still going on for thousands and thousands and thousands of people, and I hope when New Orleans is rebuilt and we are all down there, you know, hanging out again, that the point that we all remember is this: this tragedy highlighted the clear disparity between many people in this country and many others in this country. Whether it is black or white or rich or poor, there is a huge, tremendous rift between those people who have a lot of money and those people who do not have anything.

And we saw it today, or this past week because people were saying, well,

why did they not leave? Well, 35 percent of the African Americans, I believe, in the city, did not have cars. Now, regardless of how the whole thing was structured, and we will have arguments about everything else, they were at a clear disadvantage. They were reliant upon someone else. And you go through education and health care and basic skills that kids test on, it is unbelievable how poorer kids do so much worse.

And this is going on in Youngstown, in Akron, in Cleveland, in Milwaukee, in Detroit. Pick a city, as the gentlewoman said. And I hope that after all this we realize that that is unacceptable and to give millionaires trillions and trillions of dollars and see what the end result is, whether it is through kids, education, health care or levees being built, the government has a role to play, and those people who benefit from society have an obligation to meet their responsibility to everybody else. And that is really, I think, the ultimate point in this. And I hope that the reaction to this is the same reaction that we had in 1927 when the big flood hit in 1927, which eventually led to a very progressive era in government and into the 1930s and 1940s and, quite frankly, into the 1980s.

So I hope that we all realize that, you know, we are pretty lucky, most of us. But there are some people that we need to reach out to and find ways to reform government and put the money in the right places to make sure that those people have the kind of opportunity that many others have.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I would say to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) I just wanted to go over a couple of these programs that FEMA has available for individuals that are in the Federal disaster area, those States that have been designated by the President. There are a number of grants and I just want to make sure, and also low-interest loans, and if anyone wants assistance as it relates to those, you can call and just ask the question. The operators will go over it with you. They are working 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. You can call 1-800-621-FEMA, F-E-M-A, and that is 3362. So that is 1-800-621-3362 to register. If you are hearing impaired, you will dial the TDY line, which is 1-800-462-7585. I am going to read that other number over again. 1-800-621-3362. If you are hearing impaired, 1-800-462-7585. They also have an online, you can reach FEMA through FEMA acronym, FEMA.gov/register. That is again 24-hour grant. They also have 24-hour you can get the grant information. And many of the family members may have to get it on behalf of the other family members because they may not be in an area where they can receive that information. You have to help your family and friends through this process, even though government is reaching out to them.

The individual housing grants that are also available, this is the primary

vehicle of assistance that FEMA provides to individuals. Also what that individual grant information does, it provides you with a voucher for short-term housing. Each individual can get up to \$26,200 per individual or household. And I think that is important. And we will give you more information in the coming days on that.

Disaster unemployment relief. This program, with acronym of DUA, provides benefits to individuals that were previously employed or self-employed that have been made jobless because of a direct result of the major disaster which will be Katrina, that are not eligible for regular Federal or State unemployment insurance. I think that is important. But I still urge Americans and also Members to encourage their constituents to go after these programs.

Dislocated worker activities, this is a program that provides training and also related assistance to persons that have lost their jobs that are unlikely to return back to their current job or industry. That is important for individuals that are throughout the country.

I just want to be able to add in the last couple of minutes here, we have folks that are all over the country, that are literally all over the country. And I am coming back to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

In Alabama, there are some 5,017 individuals; Arkansas, 5,534. I am just reading out some of the big numbers. Louisiana there are a lot of people still there, 67,000 individuals. So there are a number of programs that are available. I urge you to go to the FEMA Web site or even call them. Mr. RYAN, do you want to give the Web site information?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov. We are going to be trying to recruit college kids to go down and help with the clean up too. So it is 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, on behalf of the 30-something Working Group, we would like to thank the Democratic leader, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us to come here to the floor once again, and it was an honor addressing the House once again.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, this evening I wanted to spend the first few moments reflecting on the crisis in the gulf.

□ 2300

I have been privileged to observe nearly 8 decades of life and I will tell you that this is the only time that I can remember that I was looking at television, coming from our country that seemed really surreal to me. I had

to pinch myself to make sure that I was not dreaming, because how could it be that in our country, the United States of America, there were people sitting dead in wheelchairs by the sidewalk, there were people rolled up in sheets dead and others walking by them, there were corpses floating by in the water?

There were tens of thousands of people in buildings that they could not leave because water was around them and they had no food, no water, no bathroom facilities and no power.

The situation is better now and it is improving; and no one is happy with the response of either the local officials, the State officials or the Federal Government. But, Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to look at what went wrong.

Now is the time to make sure that these people are all rescued, who are not already out, to make sure that they all are comfortable in housing, to make sure that their needs are met, that their children are in school.

There will come a time that is not now, Mr. Speaker, when we will really take a hard look at what went wrong, not to place blame. Because I really believe, Mr. Speaker, that everyone at every level made what they thought was the right decision at the time they made it. Obviously, in hindsight, it was not the right decision and we need to make sure that we learn from this experience so that we do not repeat it when we have another crisis. And there will be another crisis, either a natural disaster or a terrorist-induced crisis.

Americans are really helping. When a tragedy occurred overseas we stepped out ourselves to help in the tsunami and Americans are doing that now for other Americans. And we are learning that sometimes bureaucracy gets in the way because we have people who want to help and they are ready to help and they wait and they wait. What can we do? And they are ready with supplies. We are working very hard, Mr. Speaker, as we clear away these roadblocks in our bureaucracy because we know that what the Bible says is true, that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

We are now taking a lot of money from our people and from our children and our grandchildren because we will not be able to pay it back, money we need to help the survivors of this catastrophe. But we must not deny our citizens the satisfaction, the reward, the fulfillment that they get from helping themselves. And so we must continue to work to make sure that bureaucracy does not get in the way of people helping people because that really, in the end, is the best kind of help.

Just a little example about how much some of our agencies have done. This is the Coast Guard. They rescued over 23,000 survivors, assisted in the evacuation of another 10,000 from area hospitals. They have brought in over 2,600 servicemen and women, called up another 800 Reservists to undertake re-

sponse operations. They moved over 75 aircraft, 22 cutters, those are ships, 110 small boats into the disaster area to execute search and rescue, environmental clean-up and to restore navigation to ports. That is very important because a lot of oil moves in there.

They dispersed tons of food, potable water and other supplies to survivors, surveyed and replaced dozens of aids to navigation required to reopen 62 percent of the local ports and waterways to deliver critically needed oil, gas and other natural resources.

They have begun the environmental remediation on gulf waterways by removing 60,000 gallons of oil, 665 floating containers of unknown liquid, 132 compressed cylinders and 10 petroleum tanks.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of this crisis, gas that was already high has skyrocketed higher, and now many people are talking about energy. We started talking about energy and a coming crisis on March 14. Katrina has just hastened and magnified the process that we began talking about then.

On March 4, just 10 days before we gave our first floor speech here on this subject, gas was \$1.93. By August 29, just before the hurricane hit, it was \$2.60. That is a pretty big increase, from March 4 to August 29 a 67 percent increase. In just 7 days from August 29 to September 5, the price of oil jumped from \$2.60, this is an average nationwide, more some places, less some others, to \$3.04 average. This is an increase of \$1.22 in just 1 year.

But, Mr. Speaker, it could have been much worse. We have over 4,000 wells in the gulf; 953 of those are manned rigs and platforms. Only about 20 of those were cut. And, by the way, from those 4,000 wells we get about 1.5 million barrels of oil a day, which is just a bit more than a fourth of all the oil that we pump. So we pump just a little over 6 million barrels of oil. But, Mr. Speaker, we use 21 million barrels of oil and the rest has to come from somewhere else and that somewhere else is all over the world, and much of it from countries that are relatively unstable, whereas, the President says, the people do not particularly like us.

I have here, Mr. Speaker, a little chart that shows the density of the oil rigs off the coast. And notice the little line here, the little symbols here. That shows where the hurricane came in. Lucky for us the hurricane came in where there was the least density of oil wells. Had it come in just a little west of that, it would have hit a very much higher density of oil wells, and the crisis might have been much worse than it is.

On September 7 there was an article by Reuters that said another storm would devastate U.S. energy, and it was quoting some analysts. And one of the analysts I know, because I have spoken with him several times and met him, was Matthew Simmons; by the way, he is the energy adviser for the President. He was an energy adviser in

his first campaign and in his second campaign. He is the president and CEO of the largest energy investment bank in the world.

This is what Matt Simmons said in talking about our refineries and the infrastructure that moves the refined product to a great many users on the east coast. He says, "We shoved it all into Texas and Louisiana. We put the heart of the industry in the middle of hurricane alley."

Mr. Speaker, we may want to rethink where we have this infrastructure in light of its vulnerability to this kind of natural disaster.

I have here a news story from the 4th of March of this year, that was just 10 days before we gave our first floor speech here on this subject; and I am quoting from this. "The average pump price then was \$1.93," as I just said.

Trilby Lundberg—this is the Lundberg family, everybody has heard of the Lundberg Report that for many years now has been giving the price of gas and predicting what it will be in the future—she said, "The chances of gasoline rises are very, very strong, if not immediately, then in coming weeks as we move into spring." It was \$1.93 then, remember.

A government official who works for the U.S. Energy Information Administration, and I will not give you his name, Mr. Speaker, because he would be quite embarrassed, because this is what he said. He said, "It takes about 8 weeks for crude prices to make it to the pumps," and he did not think the increase would be more than 10 cents. It was \$1.93 so he did not think it would go up in the summer to more than \$2.03. Mr. Speaker, it was \$2.60 before the price was pumped up by the hurricane.

I guess it just goes to show, Mr. Speaker, that you cannot believe everything your government tells you.

The AAA reporting in that same story made this statement, Mr. Robert Sinclair from the AAA said, "Probably the era of cheap oil as we have known it, where a barrel of crude oil was \$29 or \$30 is gone forever."

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, I think that Mr. Sinclair was exactly right, and the chart that I have here shows that.

Now I have had to modify this chart. This shows inflation steadily rising and it shows the price of oil which has been up and down. And we notice what I had to do over there at the end, because a few weeks ago when I used this chart, we had not gone over \$55 a barrel for oil and so I put that down as the 2005 figure. But just a few days ago during intraday trading, the price of oil went up to \$71.85, almost off the chart.

When I come back again, Mr. Speaker, and I will, to talk about this subject, because I think it is so important that we need to emphasize it over and over again so that we have enough interest and enough knowledge so that we do the things that we really must do to avoid a really big problem with this in the future. So I suspect, Mr.

Speaker, that when I come back to talk again that this might very well be off the chart, and we will try to add something to the corner of the chart to show you how high it has gone.

□ 2310

On the next chart are some numbers that are widely known. We have only 2 percent of the known reserves of oil. We use 25 percent of the world's oil. As I said just a few moments ago, about two-thirds of that is imported.

By the way, we have gone from bad to worse. In the Arab oil embargo in 1973 we imported 34 percent, about one-third of the oil we use. We did not learn a whole lot from that, did we, Mr. Speaker, because now we are importing two-thirds of the oil that we use. So we are even more vulnerable, and look what happened then with the Arab oil embargo.

We represent only 5 percent, as a matter of fact less than 5 percent, of the world's population, one person out of 22, and we use a fourth of all of the oil which is used in the world. The other figure here is a really interesting one, and that shows that we pump 8 percent of the world's oil. If we have only 2 percent of the reserves, and from that 2 percent of the reserves we are pumping 8 percent of the oil, that means we are pretty good at pumping oil, and we are. It also means that we have a whole lot of oil wells probably, and we do. More than half of all the oil wells drilled in the world, Mr. Speaker, are drilled in this country. So we do not have much oil, and we are using it up really quickly. When there is an end to oil, we will come there before the rest of the world because we use so much, we have so little, and we are pumping the so little we use so fast.

The next chart shows a consequence of this, and by the way, those numbers inspired about 30 of the leading citizens in our country, McFarland, Jim Woolsey, Frank Gaffney and about 30 names total, retired generals and admirals and leading people in our country wrote a letter to the President saying, Mr. President, the fact that we have only 2 percent of the oil and use 25 percent of the oil and import two-thirds of what we use is a national security risk, which is unacceptable. We have to do something to wean ourselves from foreign oil.

The chart that I have here, Mr. Speaker, points out one of the problems that we face, and that is, that we are not only a country that needs a lot of oil. China now is the second largest importer in the world. Last year, they increased their importation 25 percent. I saw the number. They increased their oil use by 14.7 percent. I am not sure how we get so precise, but this chart of the world here shows where they are. They are now scouring the world to make sure that they have oil, and they are entering into contracts and buying assets.

You may remember, Mr. Speaker, they bid on Unocal in our country, al-

most got it, bid more than Chevron. Fortunately, they withdrew their bid. By the way the price of oil is not set by who owns it. It is set by how much of it there is in the world compared to demand in the world. It would have not been nice for China to own oil right in our country, but it really would not have affected the price of oil at all.

Notice, they are in Colombia. They are in Venezuela. They are in Brazil. They are really in the Middle East. In the big far eastern Russian oil reserves in the Sakhalin Islands, they are now building a pipeline. Originally, we thought it would go to a port where the oil would then go to Japan. Russia has just recently said that at least a large part of that is going to be diverted on down to a pipeline that goes to China. So we now have a world in which China and India and all of the developing countries, many of them in northern Africa, particularly in the Orient, are now demanding more and more oil.

To put this in context, Mr. Speaker, and to kind of see how we got here, we need to go back 60 years. Our next chart takes us back there 60 years and just a word about the origin of this chart.

Working for the Shell Oil Company in the 1940s and 1950s was a scientist known as M. King Hubbert. He watched the pumping and the exhaustion of oil fields and he noticed that for almost all of those fields that they followed a bell curve. Now, most people are familiar with a bell curve. There are some people very short, some very tall, but most of us are somewhere in the middle. So there is a bell by weight, and most things out there in the nature, their distribution follows a bell curve. What he found was that we pumped oil faster and faster until finally we reached a peak, and at that peak, he noticed that about half of the oil that was in the field had been found, and no matter how hard they sucked and pumped, the production of oil from that field fell down the other side. It is perfectly reasonable that the last part of the oil is more difficult to get than the first part of the oil.

So what M. King Hubbert did was to say, gee, if I knew how many oil fields there were in the United States, and I knew how many more we were likely to find, and if I added up all these little bell curves, I could get a big bell curve which would tell me when the United States was going to peak in oil production. He did this study and he made that prediction in 1956. Everybody thought that he was going to be really wrong and really be embarrassed, and Shell Oil Company said, please, do not do that.

He published the paper anyhow, and right on target, in 1970, we reached our peak oil production. M. King Hubbert went from being something of an embarrassment to being an icon because he was right on the money. He predicted 14 years ahead when we would peak in oil production in this country.

Using those same analytical techniques, he predicted that the world

would peak in oil production about 2000. That did not happen because he could not have known of the Arab oil embargo and the oil price spike hikes and the worldwide recession that occurred as a result of these oil price spike hikes.

Many experts believe that we in the world are peaking about now. If not now, soon. The next chart shows where we have gotten our oil from in the United States, and it shows the production curve and the fact that right on target in 1970 we peaked in oil production, and it has been downhill since.

This shows where we get the oil from, a whole bunch from Texas, the rest of the United States, natural gas, liquids. Notice Alaska there. This is Prudhoe Bay, from which we get a fourth of our oil, and Mr. Speaker, that produced only a little blip in sliding down Hubbert's Peak, and notice the yellow there. I am sure you can remember the fabled Gulf of Mexico oil discoveries. This was going to solve the problem. There would be oil for a very long time. That is all the contribution. That yellow there is the total contribution from the Gulf of Mexico oil discoveries.

Mr. Speaker, I am having some trouble understanding why we ought to drill ANWR. Let me tell you why. We have only 2 percent of the known reserves of oil. We use 25 percent of the world's oil. I am having trouble understanding how it is in our national security interests to use up that little bit of oil we have as quickly as we can. If we could pump that oil tomorrow, and we cannot, but figuratively, if we could pump that oil tomorrow, what would we do the day after tomorrow? And there would be a day after tomorrow.

ANWR will be, most people believe, not more than half of what Prudhoe Bay was, and you see that it did little or nothing to stop our slide down Hubbert's Peak. So I would like to reserve ANWR. We are really going to need oil in the future. It and gas are the feedstock for an enormous petrochemical industry. We live in a plastic world, and in the future, when we look back at what we have done, we will be embarrassed that we burned, just to get energy, so much oil, and particularly gas, because they are such an important feedstock for our petrochemical industry that we see all around us.

We live really in a plastic world. It builds our tractors and makes the insecticides, makes the herbicides. It makes the plastics. It is anything and everything in our society.

□ 2320

The next chart shows something very interesting. In spite of increasing techniques, in spite of computers, in spite of 3D seismic, the peak oil discoveries were about 40 years ago. Now, this is blocked off by 5-year increments, and there was a big one here at about 1980, but generally speaking the discovery of oil has been down, down, down. And the experts do not believe that there is

more than about maybe 5 percent of the known reserves that are yet to be discovered.

We have drilled a lot of holes. We have done a lot of exploration. We are really good at finding oil. And most of the experts do not believe we should count on much more than maybe about 5 percent of our current reserves as unknown, yet-to-be-discovered reserves.

The next chart shows something very interesting, and that shows that you cannot drill your way out of this problem. This shows the production of oil in the United States; and in 1980, when the Reagan administration came in, we were already 10 years down Hubbert's Peak. We had slid over the top and were starting down the other side of this bell curve called Hubbert's Peak. We were importing oil, and Reagan was concerned that we needed more oil. And so he did what you do in a market society like we have, he gave incentives for drilling. If we just give them some incentives, some tax advantages, some profit motive for drilling, they will go out and drill.

This yellow line represents the number of wildcat wells that were drilled. And, boy, was he successful. He got them to drill a whole lot more wells. But notice what happens down here. They produced less and less oil. They soon tired of drilling those extra wells when they were not finding any oil; and so, notice that the number of wells they drilled slipped down and down because they were finding less and less oil and we were going more and more negative.

The next chart shows something which Albert Einstein said was the most powerful force in the universe. When we had discovered atomic energy and the nuclear weapons, Albert Einstein was asked, Gee, Dr. Einstein, what will we do next? What will be the next big increment in energy? What will we fight the next war with and so forth? He said, The most powerful force in the universe was the force of compound interest; that is exponential growth.

And so here we show some exponential growth curves. The bottom straight line here is a 2 percent growth in the first year, and then just extrapolating out there from that. If you have money in the bank and it is getting 2 percent interest, and every year you take out the 2 percent and just keep it and do not let it in there to create any more interest, that is the rate at which it will grow. But if you leave the interest in and it is compounded, then you see what happens. You have what is called an exponential curve. This is 2 percent and 4 percent and 5 percent.

And this one on the left here is a really interesting one, Mr. Speaker. That one that goes almost straight up, that is the rate at which China is growing, almost 10 percent a year. With a 10 percent growth rate, you double in 7 years, 7.2 years to be precise, but roughly 7 years. You are four times bigger in 14 years and you are eight

times bigger in 21 years. Now, I do not think China will necessarily continue with a 10 percent growth rate for 25 years, but if they do, their economy will be eight times bigger than it is today.

The next chart shows this same 2 percent growth. And, by the way, you can make that bell curve very sharp, very high and very sharp. You can simply change the numbers on the abscissa and the ordinate here. But this is the same 2 percent we saw in the previous one, and this has been about the rate that the consumption of oil has grown in the world, about 2 percent a year. That is the 2 percent curve here.

Now, obviously, up until this time the rate of reduction has equaled the rate of use because we have used all the oil that was produced and we have had all the oil we needed to use. But there will come a time, if in fact there is a phenomenon known as peak oil, when you peak, and there was for our country.

I want to remind you, Mr. Speaker, that there are a couple of unassailable facts. The first one is that M. King Hubbert was right about the United States. We did peak in 1970. He predicted that we would peak in 2000. Now, why should not M. King Hubbert be right about the world if he was right about the United States? And we now have oil at, what, roughly \$65 a barrel, that has recently spiked up to over \$71 a barrel.

But notice, Mr. Speaker, from this chart that the problem does not wait until peak. And, by the way, this 2 percent growth curve doubles in 35 years. So from this point to the end here, all the shaded area, that spans 35 years, because the upper point here is twice this one. That would mean that you start to have problems, if you could see them that precisely, 17½ years before peak. So we do not necessarily have to reach the peak before there is a discrepancy between what you would like to use, India and China and us.

We think, Mr. Speaker, if our economy is not growing at least 2 percent a year, the sky is going to fall, so we need to grow. China is certainly growing. India is growing. All of the Orient is growing and all demanding more oil. And if we stay with only a 2 percent increase—China last year increased 14.7 percent, India increased. If we stay with only a 2 percent increase, we are going to be really lucky. And, Mr. Speaker, we will not even be able to use all of the energy that is available here if, in fact, we are going to make a reasonably smooth transition to alternatives.

Mr. Speaker, we will transition to alternatives, because the age of oil will not last forever. And as oil runs down, we must move to alternatives. We will either move to alternatives because there is not any more oil available in the quantity we would like, and by the way we are not running out of oil; there will be oil for another 100 years. What we are running out of is readily

available, high-quality oil produced in the quantities that we need to meet our current economic demands.

Now, we really are going to have to reduce our consumption here so that we will have some energy to invest in the alternatives, because you are not going to make the transition without investing three things: Money. Mr. Speaker, we do not worry much about money. We just borrow it, without permission, from our kids and grandkids. But we cannot borrow time and we cannot borrow energy. So we are going to need to have time and need to have energy. So what we are going to need to do is to conserve, so that we reduce our energy demands so that we have something to invest.

The next chart shows us, Mr. Speaker, that we really can do that. This shows through the years from 1960 to 2000 the energy use per capita, per person, in the United States. Now, on this chart, Mr. Speaker, we see something very interesting. We, and by "we," me and everybody else in the United States and California, started out at the same place, about 4,000 kilowatt hours per person. We have been using more and more energy as we have lived better and better from 1960 until now. We have more labor-saving things that are using fossil fuels to help us. But notice what has happened. Because of their emphasis on environment and efficiency in California, the average Californian uses only about 65 percent as much energy as the rest of America. This shows, Mr. Speaker, that we can conserve. We can be more efficient. We can reduce our consumption of energy.

The next chart shows what we have available to us to transition from fossil fuels, oil, gas, and coal to renewables. We have some finite resources. These are things which we have that are not the typical petroleum product that we can rely on to give us some energy. Tar sands and oil shales and coal and nuclear fission and nuclear fusion. Just a word about these.

I would first like to make an observation about energy density, because this is a quality of energy that is very important in our society. Fossil fuels have enormous energy density. For instance, Mr. Speaker, one barrel of oil, the refined product of which is 42 gallons of gasoline, you can buy at the pump for just a little over \$100 now. That will give you, Mr. Speaker, the work output of 12 people working all year for you and it costs you just a little over \$100.

Now, to give you some sense that that is probably correct, I would like you to reflect for a moment, Mr. Speaker, on the car you drive and how many miles per gallon you get. That gallon of gas is still, at \$3-something, cheaper than small bottles of water in the grocery store, by the way. But reflect on how far that gallon of gas will take you in your car and then you think about how long it would take you to pull your car that far.

□ 2330

So you will get some notion that this energy density is probably correct, that a barrel of oil, 42 gallons of gas, the refined product will give you the work output of 12 people working all year for you, and it costs you just a little over \$100.

Mr. Speaker, another way of looking at this is to go out this weekend and work very hard in your yard, manual labor, digging a ditch, cutting grass, whatever you want to do. I will use an electric motor and less than 25 cents worth of electricity, and I will get more mechanical work done than you will working all day long real hard. That is kind of humbling, is it not, Mr. Speaker, to recognize that in terms of the energy in fossil fuel, you and I are worth less than 25 cents a day.

But this is really the problem we have had, because these fossil fuels are so good, they are so available, the energy density is so high that we have just come really to rely on them. So when we are looking for alternatives, if we are going to continue the lifestyle anything like the lifestyle we have now, we are going to have to find substitutes that have something like the quality of energy this our fossil fuels. That is not going to be easy, Mr. Speaker.

Here are the finite resources that we have. There are some big oil sands, they call them oil sands up in Canada, and they are now producing oil from the oil sands at about \$30 a barrel. Oil is selling at \$65 a barrel, and that is a good deal, so Canadians are producing a lot of oil up there from the oil sands. From a dollars and cents perspective, that makes a lot of sense. They are doing that and selling it.

But there is another profit ratio that we have to think here, and that is energy profit ratio. That is energy in and energy out. I am told that at this time they are using more energy from natural gas.

You see, this tar and the tar sands is so stiff that it will not flow at normal temperatures. So they drill two wells together, then they go horizontal, and in the upper well they put hot water, steam, and that softens the oil. Then it goes down through the rock and sand and then they pick it up in the lower well that is drilled under that. They can now drill down perpendicularly and go horizontally, as they have been able to do for a number of years.

I am told they are using more energy from natural gas than they will get out of the oil they produce. For them that is still maybe a good idea, because the natural gas is up there and it is cheap for them and hard to transport. Because it is a gas and there is not very much of it, the density is very low. They are converting gas energy into oil energy, and although they get less energy out of the oil, you can put it in a pipe or ship and you can easily move it and you are getting \$65 a barrel for the oil, so they are doing it.

But this points out, Mr. Speaker, that we should not be too sanguine

about all of the potential energy in the tar sands and oil shales, because it may take, even if we get really good, and they are now talking about putting a nuclear power plant up there to heat the water, to soften the oil to get it out of the ground, if we are really good at getting this out, it is not going to be very energy positive. We are going to have to be good to make it energy positive at all.

Then coal, in a couple of moments I will show you a chart on coal, we have 250 years at current use rates, but that shrinks when you have to use it in higher quantities, and we will have to use it in higher quantities.

Nuclear fission, that is the conventional nuclear power plants, now we get 14 percent of our total energy, 20 percent of our electricity, from nuclear. As you drive home tonight, Mr. Speaker, note that every fifth house and every fifth building would be dark if we did not have nuclear energy.

We probably in this transition period need to have a lot more of that, and we need to think through what we do with the waste from that and how we handle that. But either you are going to end up using far less energy than you are using now, or you are going to get energy from sources you are not now getting it from, and nuclear is a very attractive source to get energy from because you have such enormous energy output from a single plant.

But that is not a final solution with the kind of power plants we have now, because they use fissionable uranium, and that is in limited supply in the world and that will not last forever. Maybe, I get different numbers, I get numbers between 30 years and 200 years, depending on who you are talking to. We desperately need an honest broker, like maybe the National Academy of Sciences, to help us agree on a number so we have something to work with.

But in any event, when fissionable uranium is gone, and that is at current use rates, by the way, we have 30 to 200 years. If you ramp up the use rates, it goes more quickly. Then we have to go to breeder reactors, with which we have little experience and which produce by-products that have to be stored away, even more critical by-products, end products, than from the fissionable uranium, that have to be stored away for maybe a quarter of a million years, and that kind of boggles the mind to think of storing something away for that long.

The last one here is nuclear fusion. I support all the money that technology can absorb. I think the chances of getting to nuclear fusion in our lifetime are about the same as my chances of winning the lottery and solving my personal economic problems. If I think the lottery is a good bet, I am going to think that nuclear fusion is a good bet. But I would not bet the ranch that we are going to get to nuclear fusion.

If we get there, Mr. Speaker, we are home free, because there is essentially

a inexhaustible amount of energy there. We ought to support all of those skilled people that have expertise in this area to see if it is possible to get there. But it is certainly something we should not bank on. It will be really nice if it happens, but we better have an alternative course of action, because it is unlikely to happen.

Once we have gone through these finite resources, then we come to the alternatives. I would like to look at the next chart and leave this one up, because I want to come back to it.

This now shows where we are. This is our total energy use in the little circle here, and three-fourths of that, the natural gas, the petroleum and the coal, if you add those up, they add up to 85, it should be 85 percent.

The other sources of energy are then 15 percent total. A bit more than half of that comes from nuclear power and so-called renewables. Here the chart has blown that up so we can see it. The biggest part of that comes from hydroelectric, and that is not likely to grow in our country, because we have dammed up about every river we should and maybe a few we should not and we are breaching more dams than we are creating now. So that is probably not going to grow.

The next biggest source of renewables is wood. This is not the rural person burning it for heating their home. This is a big timber industry and paper industry wisely burning what would otherwise be a waste product to get energy.

Then waste. This one can grow, the waste, and it should grow. It is really kind of dumb to bury our waste rather than burning it to get energy from it. Landfills create problems. When you burn it many of those problems, when you control it the pollutants disappear and you get energy from it.

But what this points out is that the sources that we are going to have increasingly turn to as we run down Hubbard's peak are things like solar, which is now one percent of 7, which is one out of 7 percent, which is .07 percent. Wind, these are just now really minuscule, but they are the resources that we have got to invest in, because they are going to have to be big sources of energy for us in the future.

Here, alcohol. A couple of weeks ago I spent a full day, Mr. Speaker, at the National Press Club here on a conference on ethanol. There is a big controversy out there about whether or not we can produce ethanol and get more energy out of the ethanol than we put into producing it, mowing the land, building the tractor, putting the tires on the tractor, fertilizing and so forth. There are a couple of really good scientists who believe they have looked at all of the energy inputs and they think that you have an energy deficit when you go from corn to ethanol, that you put more energy into producing it than you get out of it. Others think it is maybe energy positive.

But the point I am making is if it is energy positive, it is not going to be

very energy positive, and it may be a nice convenient way to end up. You cannot put cornstalks in your car and go, but you could have a little critter that breaks down the cellulose there into glucose and then ferment that and get alcohol and put that in your car and go. I am not saying it is not a good idea, but I am saying we are not going to get enormous amounts of energy from it.

□ 2340

It may be energy positive; but if energy positive, not very energy positive.

Here is geothermal, and, by the way, that is not the geothermal of the guy who is selling the heat pump and telling us he is going to put in a heat thermal system. And what he is doing is very wisely connecting us either to groundwater or the ground so that we are not trying to heat the summer air to cool our house or cool the winter air to warm our house. It is what we do with the heat pump that interfaces with air, and they call that geothermal. And I agree they ought to put that in quotes because the real geothermal is where we are doing what Iceland does and tap into the molten core of our Earth where we are close enough where we can drill down and get the benefit of that heat.

If one goes to Iceland, I have never seen a chimney there. I have been there several times. They do not need chimneys because they have a lot of geothermal there. This points out the importance of these now very miniscule contributions to our energy. We are very much, Mr. Speaker, like a young couple that has just gotten married and we have really lucked out. We have got a big inheritance from our grandparents. We really lucked out. We found a lot of fossil fuels.

So now we have established a lifestyle where 85 percent of all the money we spend is our grandparents' inheritance and only 15 percent of it comes from our income. But our grandparents' inheritance is not going to last until we retire and certainly not until we die. So we are going to do, Mr. Speaker, one of two things. Either we are going to have to spend less money, or we are going to make more money; and that is exactly where we are in energy. Eighty-five percent of what we use is fossil fuels. Fifteen percent of it is what we have earned in a sense because it comes from nuclear power, and if we go to breeder reactors, that could be a perpetual source of power, and it comes from these renewables.

And we are going to have to transition as we run down Hubbert's Peak. We are going to have to transition from this 85 percent inheritance of our grandparents to the 15 percent, and would it not be nice if we could make it more than 15 percent? But the probability is that we are going to have to have life-styles in the future which require less energy.

And let us go back to our previous chart. If we look at the potential for

energy sources from all of these solar and wind and geothermal and ocean energy, can one imagine, Mr. Speaker, how much energy it takes to lift the ocean 2 feet, the tides? But the problem with that is it is so diffuse, it is very hard to harness. But people are trying. Wave energy, thermal gradients in the ocean, there are lots of possibilities of energy from the ocean; but it is very diffuse. It is very difficult to get it concentrated so we can use it.

Then all the agricultural sources. Mr. Speaker, I am not so sanguine about energy from agricultural as I once was as I recognize that we are barely able to feed the world. Tonight, a fifth of the world will go to bed hungry. When I recognize that we are barely able to maintain the productivity of our soils with no till farming that helps us keep our top soils.

Before that we were losing the battle, and our top soils in the center of our country were ending up in the Mississippi Delta, from the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. They were ending up in the Chesapeake Bay. Now we are doing better; but I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, how much biomass we can take from our agricultural land and still have enough organic material, good tilth, which is what we call that quality of soil. So we can get some energy from agriculture, but it is going to be limited. It is not going to be enormous amounts of energy we get there. But we need to get energy from every place we can get it because we have an enormous challenge to come up with enough energy to replace the fossil fuels as we run down Hubbert's Peak.

Waste energy, we mentioned that. It was on the previous chart. We really need to do more of that. That is a really good idea.

Just a word about hydrogen from renewables. Hydrogen, Mr. Speaker, is not an energy source. It will always take more energy to produce hydrogen than we get out of hydrogen. Otherwise, we are going to have to suspend the laws of thermodynamics, and they are not going to be suspended. But still it is a good idea to use hydrogen because we can get hydrogen from some things like coal, like electricity from a nuclear power plant; and we cannot put a nuclear reactor in the trunk of our car. We cannot put coal in the trunk of our car. We did that in the coal car behind the engine, but we do not do it in our cars and we will not.

So what we are doing really is converting one kind of undesirable energy to a very desirable form of energy in hydrogen that burns and we get only water from it. And in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, we can now use it in a fuel cell. It is very adaptable to a fuel cell where we will get about twice the efficiency that we do from a reciprocating engine. But please think of hydrogen as the equivalent of a battery. It takes energy from one place and stores it in a very convenient form so we can use it someplace else.

Several weeks ago we had a hearing here, and we had experts here on hy-

drogen and the hydrogen economy. And they all agreed that of the three ways that we could store hydrogen, only one of them was really feasible if we were ever going to move to a true hydrogen economy. Three ways of storing hydrogen. One is to compress it. It is the lightest element in the universe. It is always trying to get out of wherever we put it. And it takes big, thick pressure vessels because it is so light to store very much of it. So that is a big problem. They say that we can never really have a really functional hydrogen economy if we have to compress it.

Another way of storing is to liquefy it. Then it is really cold, and it takes a lot of energy to compress it and cool it, compress it and cool it until it finally becomes a liquid, and then we have to store it in a really insulated vessel; and when we park our car, it is just going off.

And they say that the third way of storing it is the only way that is really going to make a hydrogen economy feasible, and that is solid state storage. Storing the hydrogen in a reversible chemical reaction. Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what we do with the electron battery, which is the conventional battery we have. We take electrons and we put them in a chemical form that is reversible so we can charge the battery and then discharge the battery to get power from it.

So when we have a hydrogen economy, which will really be effective and doable, these experts say we are going to have to find a battery, a way of storing hydrogen in a solid form to make it really doable. So just think of it as another kind of battery.

The next chart is really a very interesting one, and it points out to us something that we should have realized, and this covers about 400 years. It goes from 1630 to the present. And on the ordinant it shows the energy that our societies have produced; and over here, of course, is time. And the brown here is wood, and it shows that when we really learned how to use wood in the Stanley Steamer and our charcoal for smelting iron and so forth, we started an industrial revolution. It was stuttering, and then we found coal, and, boy, it really jumped. But then the use of coal really dropped off when we found oil because oil had qualities that exceeded coal. It was so much easier to use. The energy density was higher. And look what happened to our production of energy.

And, by the way, the increase in population pretty much followed the increase in the production of energy. It made it possible now to live so much easier. We could have more children. We could support the children. And notice up at the top up there that little dip. That is the Arab oil embargo and the worldwide recession. And what that did, Mr. Speaker, was to delay the onset of peak oil.

The next chart shows us some characteristics of the alternatives that we are going to have to replace these fossil

fuels. On the ordinant here, we have energy profit ratio. I talked a little bit ago about energy profit. This is how much energy we get out from what energy we put in. And if we go subzero, we may as well not do it if we are putting in more energy in than we get out unless what we are getting out has some qualities that are better than the qualities we are putting in.

And we are down here now with hydrogen. Hydrogen is down here. It is below zero. We are putting more energy in than we are getting out. But never mind, because hydrogen has real economic effectiveness in transport. We can put it in a vessel, and we can run our car with it.

□ 2350

Now, what you want, of course, is an alternative that has the highest energy profit ratio and has the highest economic effectiveness in transport, and what meets that are the giant oil fields. We do not have any of those in our country. Most of U.S. oil is way down here. It is really good in terms of economic effectiveness, but it takes a whole lot more energy to get it out than it takes over in Saudi Arabia, and the big, giant oil fields are up here, and there never were any of those in our country, they are in the Middle East. You can see here coal. You get a meaningful amount of energy out of coal but, boy, it is not very good in economic effectiveness. You have to convert it into something else. Photovoltaics in 1995, they were way down here, and now we have moved them up to here. Hydro and coal-fired and nuclear are down here, and this tells you the qualities of the replacements that we are going to need to find for fossil fuels if we are going to be able to maintain anything like the economic activity and the lifestyle that we now have.

The next chart is an interesting one. It shows us coal, and people will tell us, do not worry about energy, we have 250 years of coal left in our country. That is not forever, by the way, but that is a very long time. That is true. At current use rates, we have 250 years of coal. But, if we are going to use more coal, we are going to have an increased use of coal, and if we use coal only with a 2 percent growth per year, and, Mr. Speaker, we are going to have to use a much greater growth rate than that to make up for the slide down Hubbard's Peak in oil, but only 2 percent growth per year, compounded, it now shrinks to 85 years. And, since you cannot use coal for a lot of things like running your car, you have to convert to a gas or liquid; well, you have now made that conversion, you are now down to only about 50 years. The coal is there, it is dirty, it produces a lot of pollutants. You either put up with the pollutants or you pay a lot of energy and money, and we will not worry about money, we should worry about energy, to clean up the coal.

The next chart is an interesting one. The top shows you the subject that I

spent a full day down here at the National Press Club a couple of weeks ago on, and that is ethanol. On the right here it shows the energy you get from oil. You put in 1 million BTUs and you get out 1.23 million BTUs. I am sorry. With an input of 1.3 million, you get out 1 million BTUs. Obviously, you are going to have to use some of the energy and the oil to transport it and to refine it and to deliver it and so forth.

Now, the chart on the left here was given to me by our Department of Energy. I am told by the experts that this is wildly optimistic, but this is at least this group's view of what we can get out of it. The Energy Conference had these two experts who said that you need to put in more energy than you will get out. And even this optimistic assessment says that to get a million BTUs out, you need to put in three-fourths that amount. Now, of course, the extra energy comes from the sun, which, by the way, is where the oil came from too, because the oil and gas all come from things that grew a very long time ago with sun.

On the bottom here is a really interesting chart. In this little pie-shaped thing here, it shows all of the energy that goes into producing a bushel of corn. And notice that nearly half the energy, Mr. Speaker, that goes into producing a bushel of corn comes from nitrogen. And that nitrogen fertilizer is made from natural gas, so that is natural gas energy there. And notice almost every other slice of this pie, we are talking about fossil fuel energy to grow the seed to haul, to supply the water, many of the chemicals come from oil, custom work, putting oil in the combine, natural gas that is liquefied or used as natural gas for drying your crop, electricity that is used for a lot of things; gasoline itself, diesel, the lime and the phosphate and the pot ash are all mined using fossil fuels, so essentially, for every piece of this pie, fossil fuels are used.

Now, what do we need to do? This next chart, which is our last chart, shows us the challenge. And, Mr. Speaker, what we need is a focus that is equivalent, if you are old enough to remember the Manhattan Project, it is equivalent to the Manhattan Project, or putting a man on the moon. That was a real challenge. And I think we need to challenge the American people in a very similar way. We have to do something about our dependence on foreign oil. If you do not think there is going to be such a thing as peak oil, and I think we are probably here. I hope not. I hope I am wrong, I hope these world experts are wrong. But if we are right, then we face a very bumpy ride. But even if you do not believe that as a problem, you have to believe that getting two-thirds of our oil from overseas is a big national security risk. By the way, we need to do exactly the same thing to reduce the national security risk that we need to do to transition. We need to buy time, conservation, and efficiency. We need to

use that very wisely. If you do the wrong thing, you may end up making the problem even worse.

I would encourage my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to look into Jevons Paradox. Very interesting paradox. For some problems, the harder you work, the worse the problem gets. There will be real benefits to doing this. We will have technologies we can sell to the world, not just we, but the world, so we need to make this transition. We will create a lot of new jobs. It will be challenging to our people.

Whether we like it or not, Mr. Speaker, we are going to be a role model. We use 25 percent of the world's oil. We are a role model. We are going to be a role model. We need to step up to that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to challenge our government and our people to step up to this challenge. There are those who believe that we cannot do this. One writer begins his article by saying, dear reader, civilization as we know it will end soon. His name is Mat Savinar, you will find him with a google search of "peak oil." Please read the article. You will be genuinely frightened, having finished the article.

I am not as pessimistic as Mat Savinar. I think that the American people, because we have met every other challenge, I think we can meet this challenge. But, Mr. Speaker, we are not likely to meet the challenge if we do not know there is a problem. So I am very appreciative for this opportunity to speak about this problem, and we will be back again, because this problem is not going to go away, and we need to talk more and more about the solutions and the problem.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BUTTERFIELD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and September 8 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. FORD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. MCNULTY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. EMERSON (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for September 6 and today on account of helping with Hurricane Katrina relief.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. DeLAURO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RANGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. RAMSTAD) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LEWIS of California, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 8, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3665. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-2005-0224; FRL-7732-3] received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3666. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Halosulfuron-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions

[OPP-2005-0165; FRL-7719-8] received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3667. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flonicamid; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2005-0217; FRL-7731-6] received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3668. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting requests for emergency FY 2005 supplemental appropriations for the Departments of Homeland Security and Defense and the Army Corps of Engineers; (H. Doc. No. 109-53); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3669. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3670. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3671. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3672. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3673. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the grade of real admiral (lower half) accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3674. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Wallace C. Greyson, Jr., United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3675. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Richard L. Kelly, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3676. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Richard A. Hack, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3677. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General William L. Nyland, United States Marine Corps, and his ad-

vancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3678. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting written notification of a determination of a public health emergency in the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Utah, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(d); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3679. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Reinforced Plastic Composites Production [OAR-2003-0003; FRL-7957-7] (RIN: 2060-AM23) received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3680. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Allocation of Essential Use Allowances for Calendar Year 2005 [FRL-7958-2] (RIN: 2060-AM50) received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3681. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Process for Exempting Critical Uses of Methyl Bromide for the 2005 Supplemental Request [FRL-7962-4] (RIN: 2060-AN13) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3682. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing [OAR-2003-0121; AD-FRL-7961-9] (RIN: 2060-AN09) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3683. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Minnesota; Revised Format of 40 CFR Part 52 for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference; Correction [MN-86-2; FRL-7962-6] received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3684. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report as required by Section 7120 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2000 (P.L. 108-458); to the Committee on International Relations.

3685. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments for August 2005, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2593; to the Committee on International Relations.

3686. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3687. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3688. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3689. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3690. A letter from the Political Personnel and Advisory Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3691. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3692. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3693. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3694. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3695. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3696. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3697. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3698. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3699. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, OARM, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3700. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, OARM, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3701. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3702. A letter from the Asst. Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental

Shelf — Plans and Information (RIN: 1010-AC47) received August 26, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3703. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; San Francisco Giants Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, CA [CGD 11-05-008] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3704. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; San Francisco Giants Season Home Opener Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, CA [CGD11 05-003] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3705. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Bucksport, South Carolina [CGD07-05-038] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3706. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation for Marine Events; Neuse River, New Bern, NC [CGD05-05-040] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3707. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Regulation for Marine Events; Western Branch, Elizabeth River, Portsmouth, VA [CGD05-05-026] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3708. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320-111 Airplanes and Model A320-200 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-20500; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-235-AD; Amendment 39-14191; AD 2005-15-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3709. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135 Airplanes, and Model EMB-145, -145ER, -145MR, -145LR, -145XR, -145MP, and -145EP Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21598; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-121-AD; Amendment 39-14159; AD 2005-13-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3710. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Model L-1011-385 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-129-AD; Amendment 39-14190; AD 2005-15-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3711. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, trans-

mitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R, and F4-600R Series Airplanes, and Model A300 C4-605R Variant F Airplanes (Collectively Called A300-600 Series Airplanes) [Docket No. FAA-2005-20867; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-188-AD; Amendment 39-14194; AD 2005-15-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3712. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-200C and 747-200F Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-20690; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-230-AD; Amendment 39-14195; AD 2005-15-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3713. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-100B SUD, -200B, -300, -400, and -400D Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19175; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-246-AD; Amendment 39-14197; AD 2005-15-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3714. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-10-10, DC-10-10F, DC-10-15, DC-10-30, DC-10-30F (KC-10A and KDC-10), DC-10-40, DC-10-40F, MD-10-10F, MD-10-30F, MD-11, and MD-11F Airplanes [Docket No. 2001-NM-359-AD; Amendment 39-14201; AD 2005-15-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3715. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320-111 Airplanes and Model A320-200 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21023; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-262-AD; Amendment 39-14196; AD 2005-15-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3716. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited (Jetstream) Model 4101 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21137; Directorate Identifier 2002-NM-86-AD; Amendment 39-14200; AD 2005-15-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3717. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA-34-200T, PA-34-220T, PA-44-180, and PA-44-180T Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21590; Directorate Identifier 2005-CE-33-AD; Amendment 39-14199; AD 2005-15-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3718. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-1A11 (CL-600), Model CL-600-2A12 (CL-601), and Model CL-600-2B16 (CL-601-3A, CL-601-3R, and CL-604) Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21139; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-196-AD; Amendment 39-14193; AD 2005-15-

04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3719. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211-524 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2002-NE-40-AD; Amendment 39-14202; AD 2005-15-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3720. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a waiver of certain Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Program Requirements, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1320b-5; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida: Committee on Rules.

House Resolution 426. Resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 109-217). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KANJORSKI:

H.R. 3664. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a windfall profit tax on oil and natural gas (and products thereof) and to appropriate the proceeds for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 3665. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide adaptive housing assistance to disabled veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member and to make direct housing loans to Native American veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. REYES, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

H.R. 3666. A bill to provide that, for the period ending August 31, 2007, veterans affected by Hurricane Katrina shall have access to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself and Mr. MCHUGH):

H.R. 3667. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 South Barrington Street in Los Angeles, California, as the "Karl Malden Station"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. JINDAL (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. McKEON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PORTER, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. WU, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BAKER, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. WICKER):

H.R. 3668. A bill to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Federal student grant assistance who are adversely affected by a major disaster; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NEY (for himself, Mr. BAKER, Ms. WATERS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama):

H.R. 3669. A bill to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. REYES, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 3670. A bill to extend for persons affected by Hurricane Katrina the time for appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims of certain decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals that are rendered during the period from June 1, 2005, through November 30, 2005; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 3671. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide 100 percent as the Federal medical assistance percentage for displaced Medicaid recipients receiving medical assistance outside their State of residence due to a declared public health emergency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCRERY (for himself, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. BAKER, Mr. JINDAL, and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 3672. A bill to provide assistance to families affected by Hurricane Katrina, through the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEWIS of California:

H.R. 3673. A bill making further emergency supplemental appropriations to meet immediate needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 3674. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for projects to construct fences or other barriers to prevent public access to tracks and other hazards of fixed guideway systems in residential areas; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BASS:

H.R. 3675. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to increase civil penalties for violations involving unfair or de-

ceptive acts or practices that exploit popular reaction to an emergency or major disaster, and to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to seek civil penalties for such violations in actions brought under section 13 of that Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 3676. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on clock radio combos; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 3677. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dog accessories; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 3678. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on floor coverings and mats of vulcanized rubber; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 3679. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on manicure and pedicure sets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 3680. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and extend temporary expensing for equipment used in refining of liquid fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASE, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BOREN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. WEINER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. LEE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 3681. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to make unlawful price gouging for necessary goods and services during Presidentially declared times of national disaster; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (for himself and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 3682. A bill to redesignate the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia as the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. FORD, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. GOODE, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. RENZI, Mr. WELLER, Mr. GINGREY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan):

H.R. 3683. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to suspend for 30 days the Federal excise taxes on highway motor fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. HERGER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. BROWN of South

Carolina, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PENCE, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey);

H.R. 3684. A bill to suspend the Davis-Bacon wage rate requirements for Federal contracts in areas declared national disasters; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mr. SHAW, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina):

H.R. 3685. A bill to reestablish the Federal Emergency Management Agency as an independent establishment in the executive branch; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 3686. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to promote the integration of local land use planning and transportation planning; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GUTKNECHT (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. POE):

H.R. 3687. A bill to authorize appropriations for grants for specialized technical assistance and training to improve the quality of criminal investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 3688. A bill to require the Comptroller General to conduct a study of the consolidation of the refiners, importers, producers, and wholesalers of gasoline with the sellers of such gasoline at retail; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida:

H.R. 3689. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to reduce the size of core curriculum classes in public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BARROW, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

H.R. 3690. A bill to provide relief to students, schools, and student borrowers affected by natural disaster; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 3691. A bill to amend the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to provide for improved water management and conservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CASE, Mr. FARR, and Mr. FILNER):

H.R. 3692. A bill to establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Coast Guard to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety, in coordination with non-Federal entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 3693. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prevent all unlawful entries into the United States by January 1, 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WU:

H.R. 3694. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide grants to rural counties to ensure they are able to offer a sufficient level of advice and casework services to help veterans learn about and obtain the benefits they have earned, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. WATSON, Ms. CARSON, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. WATERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. WYNN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H. Con. Res. 234. Concurrent resolution affirming the obligation and leadership of the United States to improve the lives of the 37,162,000 Americans living in poverty and the 15,600,000 of those who live in extreme poverty; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. EVANS:

H. Con. Res. 235. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that States should require candidates for driver's licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H. Con. Res. 236. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that all Americans should program their cell phones and other portable electronic devices to show personal emergency contacts under the acronym ICE (In Case of Emergency) to enable emergency personnel to contact family and friends in the event of an emergency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be

subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Mr. BAKER, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. NEY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. BONNER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. EVERETT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. SHUSTER):

H. Res. 425. A resolution expressing the condolences of the Nation to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, commending the resiliency of the people of the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and committing to stand by them in the relief and recovery effort; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HYDE (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. DOOLITTLE):

H. Res. 427. A resolution relating to the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HYDE (for himself and Mr. LANTOS):

H. Res. 428. A resolution expressing the sincere gratitude of the House of Representatives to the foreign individuals, organizations, and governments that have offered material assistance and other forms of support to those who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. ABERCROMBIE (for himself and Mr. CASE):

H. Res. 429. A resolution congratulating the West Oahu Little League Baseball team for winning the 2005 Little League Baseball World Series; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. COLE of Oklahoma:

H. Res. 430. A resolution commending the University of Oklahoma's gymnastics team for winning the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Gymnastics Championship; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SWEENEY:

H. Res. 431. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a Lifelong Learning Week; to the Committee on Government Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. CARDOZA introduced a bill (H.R. 3695) for the relief of Daniel Acevedo; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 13: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.

H.R. 23: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 42: Mr. NORWOOD.

H.R. 63: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.

- H.R. 97: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 111: Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 127: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 128: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 133: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 215: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 220: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 226: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 239: Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 269: Ms. HARRIS, Mr. REYES, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 294: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 303: Mr. JINDAL, Mr. PETRI, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. LEACH.
H.R. 305: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
H.R. 354: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 363: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 371: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 500: Mr. CAMP.
H.R. 503: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. DAVIS of Florida.
H.R. 515: Mr. HINOJOSA and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 552: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. HAYES, and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 602: Mr. BURGESS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 609: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 691: Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 699: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 771: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 799: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 856: Mr. PICKERING, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. POMEROY.
H.R. 867: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 874: Mr. BEAUPREZ.
H.R. 881: Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. MICA, and Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
H.R. 884: Mr. WU, Mr. FILNER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. STARK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. DELAULO, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 888: Mr. JENKINS.
H.R. 896: Mr. WATT, Mr. FILNER, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. SABO.
H.R. 916: Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. FARR, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 949: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. FILNER, Mr. STARK, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 985: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 986: Mr. EHLERS and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1010: Mr. SOUDER and Mr. REYNOLDS.
H.R. 1059: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 1105: Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 1120: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1126: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 1131: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1146: Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 1200: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1202: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 1214: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 1258: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1262: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1298: Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. GOODE, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1300: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1306: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ROYCE, and Mrs. BONO.
H.R. 1329: Mr. ROSS, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. BASS.
H.R. 1333: Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. DENT.
H.R. 1355: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1357: Mr. SODREL.
H.R. 1366: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 1418: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1456: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 1498: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 1518: Mr. FORD, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 1534: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 1535: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 1536: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 1547: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1554: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 1588: Mr. LEACH, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. BERRY.
H.R. 1594: Mr. RYUN of Kansas.
H.R. 1602: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. WAMP, Mr. HAYES, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. DREIER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 1615: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1621: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. STUPAK, and Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 1632: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 1636: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1651: Mr. FORD and Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 1652: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 1668: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1671: Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1688: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1704: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 1709: Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 1748: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.
H.R. 1772: Mr. CANNON.
H.R. 1790: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1898: Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. BEAUPREZ.
H.R. 1951: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. GOODE, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, and Mr. BASS.
H.R. 1973: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2043: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 2048: Ms. SOLIS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 2049: Mr. HERGER and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 2076: Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 2106: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 2186: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 2229: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. WALSH.
H.R. 2238: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. FORD, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2290: Ms. HARRIS.
H.R. 2308: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2317: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. BONO, Mr. FARR, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 2350: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 2365: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 2369: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BOEHLERT, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 2386: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2409: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 2410: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2423: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 2498: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 2525: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 2564: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 2637: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 2662: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GERLACH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2671: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 2717: Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. STARK, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 2799: Mr. WYNN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2803: Mr. BAKER, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Ms. WATERS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. OTTER, and Mr. FORD.
H.R. 2807: Mr. FORD.
H.R. 2822: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 2869: Mr. DEFAGGIO and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2870: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2872: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FILNER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. DENT, Mr. OTTER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 2926: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2939: Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 2943: Mr. KIND, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FILNER, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2989: Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LEACH, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. OTTER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 3034: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3046: Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 3082: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3085: Mr. LINDER and Mr. NORWOOD.
H.R. 3086: Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3096: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3103: Mr. BACA and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 3143: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota.
H.R. 3144: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.
H.R. 3145: Mr. CLAY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 3150: Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. HERGER, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SODREL, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3159: Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 3183: Mr. TANCREDO and Mr. SALAZAR.
H.R. 3189: Mr. TANCREDO and Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 3255: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 3260: Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 3263: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3279: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3300: Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 3304: Mr. CANNON and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3321: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 3323: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 3326: Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. OWENS, Ms. LEE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3352: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 3360: Mr. RAMSTAD and Mr. LEACH.

H.R. 3361: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3372: Mr. OTTER and Mr. RAMSTAD.

H.R. 3373: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. FORD, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CASE, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H.R. 3401: Mr. WOLF and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 3403: Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. NORTHUP, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 3405: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. KUHLMANN of New York, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HERGER, Mr. MACK, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. HAYES, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. LATHAM, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 3427: Mr. OWENS, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 3436: Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. BAKER, Mr. SODREL, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.

H.R. 3478: Mr. SIMMONS.

H.R. 3532: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 3548: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. WEINER, and Mrs. MCCARTHY.

H.R. 3579: Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HERSETH, and Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 3585: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.

H.R. 3604: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3612: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 3613: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.

H.R. 3656: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 3659: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.J. Res. 55: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FILNER, Ms. CARSON, Ms. WATSON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. McNULTY, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.J. Res. 57: Mr. GORDON.

H.J. Res. 61: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. REYES, Mr. SODREL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 23: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H. Con. Res. 106: Mr. KLINE and Mr. BAKER.

H. Con. Res. 120: Mr. ANDREWS.

H. Con. Res. 179: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. OXLEY.

H. Con. Res. 197: Ms. NORTON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Con. Res. 215: Mr. MARKEY.

H. Con. Res. 221: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H. Res. 61: Mr. FARR.

H. Res. 85: Ms. GRANGER.

H. Res. 276: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SABO, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. COBLE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GORDON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H. Res. 295: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H. Res. 316: Mr. BARROW, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

H. Res. 317: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H. Res. 367: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Res. 368: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. TANCREDO, Ms. WATSON, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. KIRK, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H. Res. 371: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.

H. Res. 375: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BAIRD, and Ms. ESHOO.

H. Res. 382: Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H. Res. 389: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CASE, Mr. CHANDLER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. INSLEE, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYES, Mr. ROSS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WEXLER, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1642: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 3673

OFFERED BY: Mr. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end (before the short title), insert the following new title:

TITLE —ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

SEC. __. There is established a select committee to investigate and oversee the awarding and execution of contracts for relief and reconstruction activities in areas affected by hurricane Katrina.

SEC. __. The select committee shall conduct an ongoing study and investigation of the awarding and carrying out of contracts by the Government for relief and reconstruction activities in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, and to make such recommendations to the House as the select committee deems appropriate regarding the following matters—

(1) oversight procedures for the awarding of contracts and distribution of appropriated funds;

(2) bidding, contracting, and auditing standards in the issuance of government contracts;

(3) accountability of contractors and Federal, State, and local government officials involved in procurement;

(4) penalties for violations of law, official corruption, and abuses in the awarding or carrying out of government contracts; and

(5) such other matters as the select committee deems appropriate.

SEC. __. The select committee shall be composed of 15 individuals, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House (of whom 7 shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the minority leader), one of whom shall be designated as chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the select committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

SEC. __. (a) For the purpose of carrying out this title, the select committee may sit and act during the present Congress at any time and place within the United States or elsewhere, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned and hold such hearings as it considers necessary and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses, the furnishing of information by interrogatory, and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, and other things and information of any kind as it deems necessary, including classified materials.

(b) One-third of the members of the select committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business except for the reporting of the results of its study and investigation (with its recommendations) or the authorization of subpoenas, which shall require a majority of the committee to be actually present.

(c) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the select committee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities only when authorized by 8 members of the select committee. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the chairman or by any member designated by the select committee, and may be served by any person designated by the chairman or such member. Subpoenas shall be issued under the seal of the House and attested by the Clerk. The select committee may request investigations, reports, and other assistance from any agency of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government.

(d) The chairman, or in his absence a member designated by the chairman, shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the select committee. All meetings and hearings of the select committee shall be conducted in open session, unless 8 members of the select committee vote to close a meeting or hearing.

(e) The Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to standing committees shall govern the select committee where not inconsistent with this title.

(f) The select committee shall adopt additional written rules, which shall be public, to govern its procedures, which shall not be inconsistent with this title or the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. __. (a) The select committee staff shall be appointed, and may be removed, by

the chairman and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the chairman.

(b) The chairman shall fix the compensation of all staff of the select committee within the budget approved for such purposes for the select committee.

(c) The select committee may reimburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the their functions for the select committee.

(d) There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House such sums as may be

necessary for the expenses of the select committee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed by the chairman of the select committee and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration. Amounts made available under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

(e) The select committee shall cease to exist at the close of the 109th Congress.

SEC. __. (a) The select committee shall provide quarterly reports to the House con-

taining the results of its study and investigation, with its recommendations. Any report made by the select committee when the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the House. Any report made by the select committee shall be referred to the committee or committees that have jurisdiction over the subject matter of the report.

(b) Upon the dissolution of the select committee, the records, files, and materials of the select committee shall be transferred to the Clerk of the House.